

The SPORTS PINK

55p

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BAIRD A MASTER OF LAST-DAY DRAMAS

Eastleigh boss reflects on his playing days - Page 15



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HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Super Saints can enter the record books - Page 5

A BLACK DAY OUT



GOAL: Saints players after conceding their third. Pic by Paul Collins.

Saints endure a torrid time at the seaside with 3-0 defeat at Blackpool

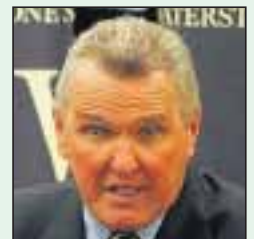
SAINTS had a collective off day as they suffered a 3-0 beating at Blackpool.

Without the injured Rickie Lambert they missed an early penalty with Billy Sharp's spot kick saved by Matthew Gilks

and it went downhill from there. Stephen Dobbie converted from the spot for Blackpool before getting another from open play, while Ian Evatt headed home the third early in the second half.

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TERRY PAINE



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CRICKET



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YOUTH SPORT



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Saints Spotlight

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BLACKPOOL 3 SAINTS 0: Saints lack cutting

BELOW-PAR SHOW TITLE

Adam Leitch

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CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER



SAINTS had a collective off day as they suffered a 3-0 beating at Blackpool.

Without the injured Rickie Lambert they missed an early penalty with Billy Sharp's spot kick saved by Matthew Gilks and it went downhill from there.

Stephen Dobbie converted from the spot for Blackpool before getting another from open play while Ian Evatt headed home the third early in the second half.

Despite the disappointment of a comprehensive defeat, Saints could at least take solace they still maintained a six point gap to third placed West Ham after they were beaten 4-2 at home by Reading, who moved to within two points of top spot.

Saints started off the game as expected in their diamond formation, a tactical ploy from Nigel Adkins to combat Blackpool's unusual line-up that was in effect a 4-2-1-2-1.

It was working a treat as Saints kept the ball, bossed the game and created a fantastic

opening that should have given them a fifth minute lead.

The chance was created by a wonderful piece of vision from Adam Lallana who spotted Guly do Prado's run cutting past the two centre halves and played in an inch perfect reverse pass.

The Brazilian striker was one-on-one with the keeper who charged out to the very edge of his area and dived down just as the ball sat up to be lifted over him, which Do Prado duly did but put it wide.

Blackpool came close themselves on 11 minutes as Danny Butterfield was caught out by a pass that set Matt Phillips away down the left. His pass picked out Gary Taylor-Fletcher whose first time side footed effort from 12 yards out

was tipped over by Kelvin Davis.

Moments later Taylor-Fletcher lifted over the bar himself from closer range after the ball bounced over to him following a scramble in the Saints six yard box.

Blackpool looked like they could concede or score at any moment and Davis was in action again, saving at the near post after Thomas Ince had cut inside Danny Fox to get a shot away.

Saints were given a fantastic opportunity on 16 minutes when they were awarded a penalty.

Lallana slid the ball into the feet of Do Prado in the area who was lining up to shoot when Bob Harris slid in and clumsily took him down.

Referee Dean Whitestone did not point to the spot immediately but spotted the flag of his linesman and awarded the penalty.

With regular penalty taker Rickie Lambert not in the side, Billy Sharp stepped up to take it but Matthew Gilks guessed correctly and dived low to his right to save it.

Somewhat predictably in a feisty Bloomfield Road atmosphere, it didn't take much for referee Whitestone to point to the spot at the other end.

Taylor-Fletcher jinked into the area on 22 minutes and went down under the challenge of Morgan Schneiderlin. It was a pretty soft award as he brushed past the Frenchman's body and went to the floor but it was given.

Stephen Dobbie stepped up and dispatched the penalty, beating Davis diving to his right by drilling the ball into the bottom corner for 1-0.

Saints had a chance to level it up on the half hour mark as Danny Fox's near post corner was flicked on to the far post by Richard Chaplow, but when Jos Hooiveld met it he headed wide.

They were made to pay a minute later when Blackpool extended their lead.

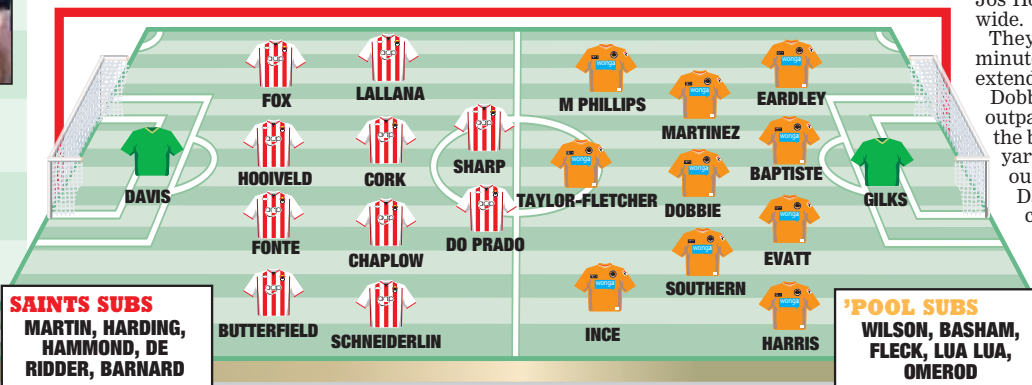
Dobbie was put through and outpaced Jose Fonte to get to the ball and bought himself a yard to hit a shot with the outside of his boot across Davis and into the bottom corner for 2-0.

Saints did start to get a bit more of a grip on the game after switching to a flat midfield four but when the half time whistle went they had plenty of work to do to get back into it.

Saints made a change at the break to try and get some width and pace into the team with Steve De Ridder replacing Chaplow.

But it was Saints who were on the receiving end as they conceded yet again on 51 minutes.

It was a pretty basic error



THE big Saints team news was that Rickie Lambert was not fit enough to start against Blackpool. Saints boss Nigel Adkins had thought his talismanic striker would be available for the game at Bloomfield Road after limping off during the win over

TEAM NEWS

Doncaster with a groin problem but that proved not to be the case. However, Saints were insisting that rumours he had had an operation and was out for the remainder of the

season are wide of the mark. Guly do Prado came in to the attack to partner Billy Sharp. Frazer Richardson was still not risked at right back while the midfield started in a diamond formation with Richard Chaplow picked ahead of Steve De Ridder.

FOR THE BEST BLACKPOOL V SAINTS MATCH REACTION AND

Saints Spotlight

edge without talisman Lambert

SAINTS JITTERS



ABOVE AND BELOW: More action from Saints' defeat at Blackpool.



ABOVE: Guly Do Prado goes down to earn Saints a first half penalty.

LEFT: Saints fans in full voice at Bloomfield Road
Daily Echo pics by Paul Collins.



that allowed Blackpool the goal as Matt Phillips whipped in an inswinging right footed corner, Ian Evatt evaded Hooiveld and slammed a home header from close range for 3-0.

Saints' day was pretty much summed up after an

hour when Do Prado cut the ball back to Lallana but he mishit his shot and it skewed wide.

There was another tactical for Saints switch as they tried to get more width with Lallana and De Ridder in advanced positions hugging

the touchlines and Do Prado in the hole but it left Sharp up front on his own.

Danny Fox became the first player in the book after launching into a challenge with Ince.

But things just weren't going well for Saints, who lacked ideas, resorting too often to hopeless lofted diagonal balls out to the right which were gratefully intercepted by the Blackpool back line.

There was at least a decent chance for Fox to have a crack as Saints won a free kick just outside the area on the right.

It was ideal for him to whip in shot with his left foot,



which he duly did. It appeared to take a bit of a deflection and Gilks was able to save diving away to his right.

Blackpool made a change on 77 minutes with former Saints FA Cup finalist Brett Ormerod coming on for Dobbie. Saints responded

with Lee Barnard replacing with Do Prado.

Lallana did manage to get something of a shot in at the far post from Danny Butterfield's arrowed right wing cross but he couldn't make a clean connection and it was a comfortable take for Gilks. The changes contin-

ued for the home side, with John Fleck replacing Matt Phillips and Lomana LuaLua for Ince.

There were to be no further chances for either side with the destination of the points long since decided when the referee blew the whistle to end the game.

ANALYSIS YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO

Saints Spotlight

Hammers implosion is a boost for Saints

READING did Saints' automatic promotion hopes a huge favour – and in the process took a giant stride towards promotion themselves – with a 4-2 win over West Ham at Upton Park.

The Hammers, who had drawn their last five home matches to slip out of the top two, were leading through Carlton Cole's strike as half-time approached.

Not only that, Sam Allardyce's side were also putting in comfortably their best performance in front of their own fans this season.

But, the match, and possibly West Ham's entire campaign, turned in the space of two minutes.

Totally against the run of play, Kaspars Gorkss equalised from a corner in the 44th minute and then, in first-half stoppage time, Noel Hunt fired Reading into an unlikely lead.

In the second half Ian Harte added a third from the penalty spot and, although Ricardo Vaz Te pulled one back, any hopes of a comeback were extinguished by Mikele Leigertwood's disputed fourth six minutes from time.

After booing their recent bore draws, the West Ham fans at least got the entertainment they craved, but their side now appear destined for the play-offs.

Yet it had all looked so different after seven minutes when Cole fired the Hammers ahead.

Kevin Nolan's neat footwork sent Matt Taylor away down the left and the United skipper arrived in the area to meet the return ball with a firm downward header which hit the foot of Adam Federici's post.

The ball fell to the feet of Cole who took a touch before thumping it past the grounded Federici for his 10th goal of the season, and his first in 10 games.

The hosts seemed well in control and Vaz Te headed straight at Federici before firing over from close range.

But, West Ham promptly fell to pieces by conceding a soft leveller a minute before half-time.

Harte swung in a routine corner but defender Gorkss got in ahead of the flat-footed Nolan to head in at the near post.

And the hosts were stunned in first-half stoppage time when Julien Faubert's challenge on Jason Roberts served only to present the ball to Hunt, pictured above, who made no mistake with a low drive past Rob Green from 12 yards.

Things got worse for West Ham 12 minutes into the second half when Hunt tumbled over Abdoulaye Faye's challenge in the area and referee Chris Foy pointed to the spot, allowing Harte to step up and convert the penalty.

With 15 minutes left Vaz Te's towering header from Gary O'Neil's corner threatened a home fight back.

But instead Leigertwood rammed home the fourth despite Hunt being well offside when the ball clipped his heels and bounced to the midfielder.



ACTION: Burnley's Ross Wallace leads his side on another attack in their 5-1 win at Fratton Park and, below, Charlie Austin celebrates his third goal.

Austin's treble hits Pompey's survival hopes

FORMER Poole Town striker Charlie Austin came off the bench to score a second-half hat-trick for Burnley and leave Portsmouth deep in the npower Championship relegation mire.

Kieran Trippier opened the scoring for the visitors before David Norris levelled matters and Portsmouth remained on top until the interval, giving little indication of what was to follow.

Danny Ings netted his first goal for the Clarets early in the second half before substitute Austin claimed a quickfire treble – his final two goals coming in stoppage time.

Pompey went into the match buoyed by two consecutive home wins but are now five points from safety with six games remaining.

Their magnificent second-half showing gave Burnley a first win in eight games and Eddie Howe's side remain 16th in the table.

Portsmouth boss Michael Appleton named the same side that beat Hull 2-0 on Tuesday night.

Teenage midfielder Cameron Howieson was named on the bench for Burnley, who were also unchanged.

Following a quiet opening, the game sprung into life when the visitors went in front with 16 minutes gone.

Dean Marney's low corner from the left flank was dummed to Trippier and the full-back sent a sweetly-struck drive into the bottom corner from 25 yards.

Portsmouth's response was swift and clinical. Luke Varney scampered onto George Thorn's searching pass down the

right wing and cut the ball across goal for Norris to thump into the roof of the net.

Appleton's men were now on the front foot and Scott Allan fired narrowly over the angle of post and bar after Burnley defender David Edgar carelessly coughed-up possession.

But the Clarets almost took the lead on the stroke of half-time when Ben Mee's strike took a deflection off Tal Ben Haim and forced Jamie Ashdown to make a superb save.

They were back in front two minute after the restart courtesy of Ings' measured glancing header from Edgar's right-wing cross after Portsmouth only half cleared Trippier's corner.

Austin was introduced in the 53rd minute when fellow forward Martin Paterson appeared to suffer a hamstring strain – his latest blow in an injury-hit season.

Varney headed wide from Kelvin Etuhu's cross as Pompey searched for an equaliser, but a staggering collapse followed.

Ross Wallace's 74th minute free-kick caused confusion inside the hosts' penalty area and Austin was on hand with a predatory finish.

Josh McQuoid fired over after a driving run from Ings and Ashdown was forced to palm a goalbound Chris McCann cross to safety before further gloss was added to the scoreline in stoppage time.

An under-hit backpass from Portsmouth centre-back Jason Pearce gifted former Swindon man Austin his 50th career goal and Junior Stanislas and McQuoid engineered a sweeping move for him to complete his hat-trick from close range.



TURN TO PAGE 48 FOR ALL TODAY'S RESULTS

Saints Spotlight

Saints making history

SAINTS could take their place in the history books as well as the Premier League if they continue their impressive form until the end of the season.

Nigel Adkins' men appear well placed to secure automatic promotion to the top flight and could do it in some style.

Though they are unlikely to break any headline records, they could easily take their place amongst the top Championship promotion winning teams of the last 20 years.

Going into this weekend's game against Blackpool, a winning finale to the season could see Saints bag 99 points.

That is still a way off of Reading's achievement of 106 but enough to put them joint fifth.

The goalscoring power of Saints is

something that has been continually highlighted.

Before the fixture at Bloomfield Road, Saints had fired home 72 goals which leaves them nine off of a top 15 place.

To reach Manchester City's effort of 108 will take some doing, even with Rickie Lambert in the side.

Saints might struggle to squeeze into the least conceded category with 35 goals let in before the weekend's matches but stand a chance of being joint second when it comes to the most home wins.

They cannot beat or equal the record of 19 but could get 18 if they defeat Portsmouth, Reading and Coventry.

See stats on right hand of page.



RECORD: Rickie Lambert could fire Saints into the record books.



Did You Know?

MOST POINTS (SECOND TIER - 1981-2011)

1 READING	106pts	(05-06)
2 SUNDERLAND	105pts	(98-99)
3 NEWCASTLE	102pts	(09-10)
4 FULHAM	101pts	(00-01)
5 MAN CITY	99pts	(01-02)
6 CHELSEA	99pts	(88-89)
7 BOLTON	98pts	(96-97)
8 NEWCASTLE	96pts	(92-93)
9 NOTTM FOREST	94pts	(97-98)
10 SUNDERLAND	94pts	(04-05)
11 NORWICH	94pts	(03-04)
12 CHARLTON	91pts	(99-00)
13 WOLVES	90pts	(08-09)
*14 CHELSEA	88pts	(83-84)
*15 LUTON	88pts	(81-82)
* 42 GAMES		

MOST GOALS (SECOND TIER - 1981-2011)

1 MAN CITY	108	(02-02)
2 BOLTON	100	(96-97)
3 READING	99	(05-06)
4 PORTSMOUTH	97	(02-03)
5 CHELSEA	96	(88-89)
6 NEWCASTLE	92	(92-93)
7 SUNDERLAND	91	(98-99)
8 FULHAM	90	(00-01)
9 NEWCASTLE	90	(09-10)
*10 CHELSEA	90	(83-84)
11 WEST BROM	88	(07-08)
*12 LUTON	86	(81-82)
*13 OXFORD	84	(84-05)
*14 NORWICH	84	(85-86)
15 OLDHAM	83	(90-91)
* 42 GAMES		

LEAST GOALS CONCEDED (SECOND TIER - 1981-2011)

1 SUNDERLAND	28	(98-99)
2 READING	32	(05-06)
3 FULHAM	32	(00-01)
4 QPR	32	(10-11)
5 SUNDERLAND	33	(95-96)
6 NEWCASTLE	35	(09-10)
*7 OXFORD	36	(84-85)
*8 QPR	36	(82-83)
*9 NORWICH	37	(85-86)
10 NEWCASTLE	38	(92-93)
*11 DERBY	38	(86-87)
12 NORWICH	39	(03-04)
*13. CHELSEA	40	(83-84)
14 MIDDLESBOROUGH	40	(94-95)
15 SUNDERLAND	41	(04-05)
* 42 GAMES		

MOST HOME WINS (SECOND TIER - 1981-2011)

1 MANCHESTER CITY	19	(01-02)
2 READING	19	(05-06)
3 SUNDERLAND	19	(98-99)
4 NEWCASTLE	18	(09-10)
5 BOLTON	18	(96-97)
6 NORWICH	18	(03-04)
7 NOTTM FOREST	18	(97-98)
*8 OXFORD	18	(84-85)
9 OLDHAM	17	(90-91)
10 PORTSMOUTH	17	(02-03)
11 NEWCASTLE	16	(92-93)
12 LEEDS	16	(89-90)
13 FULHAM	16	(00-01)
14 SUNDERLAND	16	(04-05)
15 CRYSTAL PALACE	16	(93-94)

STEVE'S PEDAL POWER

STEVE Moran sets off on his 1,400-mile charity bike ride this weekend.

The former Saints star aims to complete his Premiership Pedalathon by April 21 and in doing so raise money and awareness of a rare form of muscular dystrophy.

He has been inspired by Connor Lancaster, the 12-year-old son of his partner Hayley, who was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy when he was three.

Fittingly, Steve will embark on his challenge from Martin House Hospice in Boston Spa, Yorkshire - which Connor attends - and cycle the 84 miles to Sunderland's Stadium of Light.

Charities

From there he will cycle on to Newcastle and every other Premier League ground - as well as Wembley and the five clubs he played for (Saints, Leicester, Reading, Exeter and Hull).

The money Steve raises will be shared between four charities - the Connor Lancaster Trust, Martin House Hospice, Muscular Dystrophy Campaign and Action Duchenne.

Now a lorry driver, 51-year-

IN TRAINING: Steve Moran prepares for his 1,400 mile charity bike ride with Connor Lancaster, son of his partner Hayley.



old Steve hopes the training he has done will be enough.

"You can never do enough training for something like this," he says.

"I did seven hours on a turbo trainer at the weekend but found it very uncomfortable so I'll be investing in a gel saddle cover!"

"I'm sure it's going to hurt

but I've got a lot of support.

"Various friends have kindly offered to drive the support vehicle on a lot of the legs, including Connor's dad and a guy I met on Facebook whose son suffers from the same condition."

Steve played for Saints from 1979-1986 and is best remembered for scoring the winning

goal against Pompey at Fratton Park in an FA Cup fourth round tie in 1984.

He will cycle the 110 miles from Exeter City to St Mary's on April 12 before departing for Reading the next morning.

He hopes many Saints fans will cycle the 46 miles to the Madejski Stadium with him before heading back for the

big game against Reading that night.

"I'll be staying at the Jolly Farmer in Warsash, which used to be my local, and a lot of Southampton fans have said they'll be joining me en route which will be fantastic, it'll be great to see them," he said.

"We'll be setting off at 11am so will probably arrive in Reading around 3pm. Hopefully Saints will complete a memorable day by beating Reading in the evening!"

On April 21, Steve will complete his epic journey by cycling the 146 miles from Carrow Road, Norwich to Hull City's KC Stadium, the club where he finished his playing career and where he is now a matchday host.

There is no cure for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, but Steve hopes his efforts will go some way to improving Connor's quality of life.

"Because it's so rare it doesn't get the funding of illnesses like cancer, but they're so close to finding a treatment, so I had to do something," he explained.

For more information, check www.premier-shippedalathon.co.uk.

SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR MORE SAINTS NEWS AND VIEWS

BEAUTIFUL SOUTH

BY DAREN WHEELER

The announcement of Southampton FC's financial status put the icing on what has been, thus far, a pretty damn impressive cake.

But looking at those statistics, the figures produced are up to June 30, 2011 and as such are already surely nine months out of date?

In that intervening period, we've been promoted to the Championship, which certainly has brought a bigger broadcasting revenue.

Season ticket prices went up by 30 per cent with a relatively similar number of sales and matchday sales will have gone up with bigger attendances and an extra few pounds on the ticket price from £24 up to £27 in most areas of the ground.

If you take into account that the sale of Alex Oxlade Chamberlain has probably balanced out the signings we've made this season, and the new contracts handed out to a number of players, then the figures are even better than they currently suggest.

The conversion of the £33 million debt into shares effectively puts Saints in a remarkably healthy state.

It makes any potential sale look an absolute steal.

Chairman Nicola Cortese has stated on numerous occasions that should the Liebherr family decide to sell, he has several other options.

In light of these financial figures, should Saints get promoted, then the club would be an extremely attractive proposition.

I stated last week that the turnaround in our fortunes is nothing short of miraculous and these figures simply add to that.

What makes it even more notable is the current difference between Saints and Pompey.

Any perspective buyer will look at Saints; at their UEFA standard stadium, their UEFA standard Academy setup, their UEFA standard training facilities, their Premiership standard squad, their other assets, such as Jackson's Farm, etc and see a club that is healthy and viable.

Any prospective buyer will look at Pompey and see a club that has a ground owned by one person, the land around it owned by someone else, no training facilities (they train in Southampton) and a squad that, by and large, is made up of loanees and freebies and worth the square root of you know what.

It does make you wonder

How much credit does Rupert deserve for Saints' great position?



how one club got so lucky and one didn't?

But was it luck?

I'll be controversial and say it wasn't.

You get out of life what you put into it.

Saints were run as a business: we didn't win anything, but we paid our way.

In the modern world you're judged by your possessions rather than your principles and it should

come as no surprise that, in this day and age, Saints were viewed as being something of an oddity, a club that actually budgeted, kept within its means and paid what it owed.

Portsmouth, on the other hand, were a club that spent money it didn't have and lived fast and cheap.

They took the fast/easy route and acquired a trophy but never set up an infra-

structure to pay for it all.

They may feel they got away with writing off a huge amount of debt, but who really feels sorry for Pompey?

Who would genuinely invest money in the club without a receipt and some sort of guarantee they'd get paid?

They have written off tens of millions of pounds but they have lost one thing they can never regain.

Respect.

Saints may have been something of laughing stock with the tabloid media but I'd hazard a guess that few people would look back at the Lowe era and realise that Rupert had laid the foundations for what has transpired recently.

He may have been a divisive figure, his upper class background and love of hockey may have gone against the usual stereotype of a footballing man, but Rupert Lowe had quite a few good ideas as to how a football club should be run.

He saw the devastating effects that a managerial loss had on a club and tried to limit their influence by making them head coaches.

Was he wrong?

Ask any club that loses its manager, and then their entire coaching team, and then tell me Lowe was wrong?

He saw the spiralling effects of players' wages and instigated wage caps and wage reductions upon relegation.

Was he wrong?

Ask Pompey, a club that spent stupid money on players' wages, based around a football ground that held a maximum of 22,000 people.

Then tell me Lowe was wrong?

Even St Mary's is often quoted as being more of a city council achievement than a Rupert Lowe one.

But was he really wrong in trying to get Stoneham and make it self-sufficient with a shopping/cinema complex?

Saints had tried for years to get a new stadium and it was on Rupert Lowe's watch that it was achieved.

Let's not be so churlish as to try and airbrush him out of our history and the things that he did right.

A recession, a staggering amount of clubs in unsustainable debt and an ever growing number of clubs facing administration, show that Lowe's prudence was actually our saving grace rather than our ruin.

Perhaps one day the history books may be a little kinder on our controversial former chairman.

He deserves it.

EMAIL YOUR VIEWS ON SAINTS TO echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



Watch out America... The Brits are coming

AMERICA BECKONS: Liverpool boss Kenny Dalglish.



WITH the season coming to a close, preparations for this summer's pre-season tours are well under way.

A number of Premier League clubs have American owners, and so it would appear that America will be flooded with English teams cashing in on their popularity among USA football supporters.

Liverpool, who are owned by Fenway Sports Group, have announced a pre-season match against Serie A team Roma on July 25 at Fenway Park.

US businessman John W Henry, the principal owner of FSG, also controls Major League Baseball team Boston Red Sox and a US stock car franchise.

Boston will be the base for Liverpool as they embark on a 12-day tour, where two competitive matches will be played to celebrate Fenway Park's centenary.

Liverpool, who dominated in the 1970s and 1980s, have won the Carling Cup this year and face Everton at Wembley in the semi-final of the FA Cup.

But with just eight games left in the season, they are a staggering 31 points behind Premier League leaders Manchester United.

They need an FA Cup win to pla-

cate the restless Anfield supporters who are beginning to doubt whether Kenny Dalglish can produce a team capable of competing with the best the Premier League has to offer.

Aston Villa will also play friendlies against Major League Soccer clubs Philadelphia, Chicago and Portland in preparation for the 2012/13 season.

American owner Randy Lerner must have reservations regarding Villa's lowly position in the Premier League.

Sixth from bottom with 33 points is hardly what he would have expected when he appointed Alex McLeish, the former Birmingham manager, against the wishes of most supporters.

Now they could find themselves dragged into a relegation battle, especially if they suffered a loss at home to Chelsea today.

Manchester United and Arsenal, plus Chelsea and Tottenham, will all be travelling to the USA for their pre-seasons as well.

The United States have made great strides in the football world, with influential money men now anxious to have a piece

of the action in the Premier League. But the country itself is going through a rough time.

Eliminated by Ghana in the last two World Cups, the USA have always prepared well at grass roots level.

But they failed to make the Under-20 World Championships last year and, now, perhaps the biggest disappointment is the failure of the under-23 side to qualify for the Olympics.

In fact, the USA have failed to make two of the last three Olympic Games.

On Monday night, a goal in the dying seconds against El Salvador, in Nashville, resulted in a game they had to win finishing in a 3-3 draw.

According to former national team and Olympic coach Bruce Arena, pictured left, the United States need new leadership and must find a fresh way of doing things.

This dig at the US Soccer Federation was aimed at long-serving member Sunil Gulati, who has been the driving force for more than a quarter of a century.

Having not qual-

ified for the World Cup for 40 years before making the 1990 finals, the USA have now qualified for the last six.

To put it in perspective, I played in the England team that beat the United States at Randall's Island, in New York, 10-0 in 1964.

At the 2010 World Cup, they drew with England 1-1.

Gulati, who took over the presidency in 2006, dismissed Arena after America crashed out of the World Cup in the group stages.

Qualification for the next World Cup, in Brazil, starts this June and current US coach Jurgen Klinsmann will hope that Major League Soccer, which has expanded to 19 teams, will create more positions for American-born players.

It has also relaunched a reserve league to help create more competition.

There are now more American players in Europe than ever before, but very few can match the achievements of Fulham's Clint Dempsey.

US supporters will have to content themselves this summer with pre-season friendlies against Premier League teams, rather than watching up-and-coming American players at the Olympics.

Platini is ignoring progress

HE was one of the world's greatest mid-field players.

France's Michel Platini, now president of UEFA, graced the playing fields of the world with his outstanding ability and football knowledge. He was a leader of men, whose intelligent play marked him down as one of the best.

The same can't be said for his leadership at the helm of UEFA.

His obstinate objections to using goalline technology are mind-blowing.

His preference for two additional officials to help rule on disputed goals is doomed to failure. Football's rule-making body, FIFA, will decide in July

whether to approve the use of high-tech aids during games, with two systems undergoing final tests.

But, much to my surprise, even if goalline technology is introduced, UEFA can still boycott the ruling because it won't be compulsory.

To this day, I still can't fathom out just what those two extra officials' roles are.

I have never seen them wave a flag for an offence, and, as for having extra eyes to see whether the ball crossed the line, that will be impossible.

Goalline melees often obscure a clear sight of the ball crossing the line, and the failure of UEFA to use technology in Champions League games and European Championships matches would be an injustice to the teams taking part and would do a disservice to the playing public.



Down Memory Lane



April 1 1964

A ten-goal thriller in front of 11,392 at The Dell saw Saints beat Derby County 6-4. A hat-trick from Terry Paine, a brace from Martin Chivers and one from John Sydenham ensured victory.

April 1 1978

No April fool's joke for Blackburn Rovers as they were thumped 5-0 in front of 21,087 at the Dell. Phil Boyer (2), Ted MacDougall, Nick Holmes and Tony Funnell were on target.

April 1 1991

Matt Le Tissier scored an early goal as Saints beat Liverpool to dent the Reds' title bid at The Dell.

April 2 1995

An inspirational Matt Le Tissier double salvo helped Saints on their way to a 4-3 victory over Spurs at The Dell. Jim Magilton and Neil Heaney also netted.

April 2 2001

Saints conceded their first league goals since New Year's Day as they slumped to a 3-0 loss at home to Ipswich Town, Marcus Stewart firing a hat-trick for George Burley's men. This ended Saints five-game Premier League winning streak in what was Stuart Gray's first



SPOT ON: David Peach scores for Saints in their FA Cup semi-final victory over Crystal Palace.

game in charge.

April 3 1976

Saints beat third division outfit Crystal Palace 2-0 at Stamford Bridge to reach the FA Cup Final. Second half goals from Paul Gilchrist and David Peach sent them to Wembley.

April 3 1999

Arsenal couldn't break down Saints' defence in a 0-0 draw at The Dell

April 4 1992

Goals from Alan Shearer and Iain Dowie secured Saints a 2-1 win over QPR in front of 15,205 at The Dell.

April 5 1997

Jim Magilton's seventh minute thunder-bolt gave Saints an early lead in a match they controlled against Nottingham Forest. Michael Evans got the other two as Saints won 3-1 at the City Ground.

April 6 1976

Southampton were in dreamland as, just days after reaching the FA Cup Final, they beat Pompey at Fratton Park 1-0 with an 89th minute winner from Mike Channon.

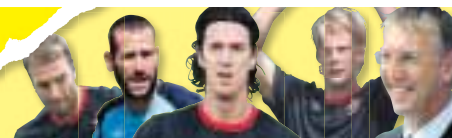
April 6 1968

Striker Ron Davies got a consolation goal as Saints were thrashed 6-1 at White Hart Lane.

April 6 1982

Kevin Keegan's equaliser rescued a point for Saints in a 1-1 draw in front of 20,977 at Brighton.

Saints Spotlight



Back to normal in South Coast pecking order



REVIVAL: Nigel Adkins has overseen Saints' rise to ascendancy over Pompey.

TENSION mounts this week as the full impact of a sinking ship will hit Southampton.

That's right, Pompey are coming to town.

Our friends down the road are enjoying something of a mini-revival on the pitch at the moment, winning against Hull and Birmingham.

From their point of view (and that of Hampshire's blue line) that's well timed as a few weeks ago the possibility of them being relegated at St. Mary's was very real.

Who is laughing now, indeed?

No money, hardly any players and quite possibly no club in a few months makes for difficult reading if you're from the PO post-code area.



View From The Stands
by Dan Kerins

Now, very few people would ever actively seek for a football club go out of business but I must confess to having very little sympathy with Pompey fans as very few seemed willing to question how they bankrolled the success they enjoyed four years ago.

Likewise, I've been a bit worried about Saints cash future, but the news this week that the money loaned by the Liebherr's has been turned into equity really does mean Saints fans can sleep easy, and, without wanting to tempt fate, if we go up, you'd like to think the Premier League money will mean the £11m annu-

al shortfall will be plugged.

The question I always ask the handful of Pompey fans I know is: Was it worth it?

Would you forego the FA Cup in 2008 and the draw with AC Milan if it meant the last two years hadn't been marred by two administrations and the prospect of not existing?

I've yet to meet a Saints fan who thinks the financial decisions behind our play-off bid in 2007 were worth the administration in 2009, but Pompey reached far higher - and look to be falling far harder.

Now, I try not to gloat - after all, we've been there and in football you're never far from it all blowing up in your face - but it's hard not to let a wry smile form when "Is this the way to Amarillo" is turned back on the

Fratton faithful. All seven of them.

So, as Pompey loom on the horizon and their bubble gets ready to pootle up the M27, I can't quite decide how to view the game.

Saints have nothing to prove and even a loss wouldn't really mean much as the league table clearly shows who are top dogs in the south.

It's not a case of not being bothered, it's more fact we've got bigger fish to fry.

That's how I approached football pre-2003, as prior to then Pompey were never really on my radar as a Saints fan.

So it's nice to see that after years of the world being turned upside down for Saints supporters, things are finally back to how they should be - with us on top once again.

Sports Quiz

take place?

8 Where did Damon Hill record his first Grand Prix victory?

9 Which is the younger of the two Toure brothers?

10 Former NBA star Magic Johnson is part of a group which has agreed to buy which Major League Baseball team?

11 Name the only two England managers to record a better win percentage

than Glenn Hoddle.

12 Super League side Bradford Bulls were founded in which year?

13 The 2019 Rugby World Cup will be held in which country?

14 Which NFL team recently signed quarter-back Tim Tebow?

15 England spinner Graeme Swann started his domestic career at which county side?

16 Who did Barcelona beat in last season's Champions League semi-final?

17 Which female tennis player won the 2011 French Open?

18 Where will the 2018 Commonwealth Games be held?

19 Which rugby league side play at the Probus Coliseum?

20 In which sport is Zac Purchase an Olympic champion?

ANSWERS

1. Leeds Carnegie; 2. New Zealand; 3. Bradford Bulls; 4. Walter Smith; 5. Yorkshire; 6. Tottenham (1991); 7. Soccer; 8. Huddersfield Town; 9. Russia; 10. Los Angeles Dodgers; 11. Alf Ramsey and Fabio Capello; 12. 1967; 13. Japan; 14. The New York Jets; 15. Northamptonshire; 16. Real Madrid; 17. Li N. Gold Coast; 19. Castleford Tigers; 20. Rowing.

FOR MORE SPORT NEWS VISIT: WWW.DAILYECHO.CO.UK/SPORT

Adam Rant

This week's big talking points
with **Adam Leitch**



Lancaster deserves his chance at top job

IT might have seemed at times a rather odd selection process, but the RFU have made the right decision in appointing Stuart Lancaster as the new England head coach.

After the team's performance in the Six Nations under his leadership they really had little choice but to hand him the job.

Following on from Martin Johnson was going to be tough in terms of personality rather than results, but Lancaster, pictured left, has handled himself well.

It seems that he has the respect of the players and that is as big a factor as any.

Like any coach without experience of that level

you are taking a leap of faith.

In the world of football there are a number of managers who do a good job on a caretaker basis, get the job permanently and then fall short, and maybe that fate will eventually befall Lancaster, but he deserves the chance to give it a go.

IF ANDREW Strauss' time as England captain is to come to an end then he should be allowed the freedom to make that call himself.

There is no doubt he is under immense pressure after a terrible winter series that has exposed the flaws in the England armoury that many felt were being masked by wins in kind conditions or against below par opposition.

Getting England to number one in the world Test rankings was a marvellous achievement.

But the real examination of just how good this side are was always going to come this winter as they travelled to the sub-continent to face Pakistan in the UAE and then Sri Lanka in their own backyard.

Unfortunately, defeat after defeat has followed and the truth has been exposed – that is a very good England team but not one that deserves consideration as being one of the all-time great Test playing sides as some had previously suggested.

Of course, they could yet turn things around in their series against Sri Lanka, but it will take a big effort after their defeat in the first Test, and the seeds of doubt are already sown in the great team debate.

FLAKY

The focus is inevitably on Strauss, partly because he is the captain of the team and also because his own form has been so flaky.

One Test century in 48 innings is obviously not the standard you want from an opening batsman, and a player who is the leader and talisman for his team.

From a distance it is tough to watch because as a person Strauss doesn't deserve this, and in terms of his technique he doesn't look like he should be going through it.

It's not as if Strauss is continually failing, posting single figure numbers due to a massive flaw in technique or confidence.

Instead, he is getting in, looking set, and then getting out on a ludicrously regular basis.

Trying to work out why that is happening must be the most frustrating thing of all.

It still looks like it's all there for him stored away in his locker, and yet it's almost as if he gets the key in the lock, turns it half way and then it snaps off.

But he has earned respect and has earned loyalty as well for his



MOMENT OF REFLECTION: England skipper Andrew Strauss after his dismissal in this week's Test defeat to Sri Lanka.

Skipper won't be forced out

achievements.

Captaining England to home and away Ashes series wins and getting them to number one in the Test rankings, even if it looks like being a relatively brief stay, is about as good as you could hope for.

Strauss doesn't strike Adam Rant as the kind of guy who is

going to cling on forever, no matter how bad things get or in the face of a public outcry for him to step aside. He will know when the time is right, to either retire completely or step down as captain, and he deserves the breathing space to make that decision.

Strauss will surely know and be

able to admit to himself that he can take it no further, or at 35 he wishes to take it no further.

Things will have to get much worse or carry on for much longer for others above him to take the decision to remove him. He deserves the freedom to do it his way.

Weaver will never forget this cruel blow

THE Olympics displays the full range of sporting emotions and there are inevitably some for whom ambitions and dreams are crushed rather than made.

One such person is Iain Weaver.

The Ferndown-based boxer has been training under the tutelage of the superb Stuart Gill at Golden Ring ABC since he was very young, with the dream always being to represent Great Britain at the London 2012 Olympics.

Even a few years ago Adam Rant was tipping him as a possible medallist, so certain did it look that he would make the tournament, and such was his form and undoubted quality.

But this week Weaver got the crushing news that he will not be competing at the Games, let alone medalling.

Weaver has been in the GB elite boxing squad for years now, spending a lot of time at their training centre and living up in Sheffield.

At 22, his has been a life largely dedicated to realising his dream, one that will not now happen.

Weaver did have a chance to reach the qualifying standard a little while ago but if he couldn't have expected Martin Ward to come forward as such a strong challenger for his place, then it's hard to comprehend how anybody would have predicted that neither of them would get the final chance to make the grade and instead be overlooked for Sam Maxwell.

It was a stunning decision, a genuine surprise.

The only thing for Weaver to do now is turn professional and use his experience, and no doubt a sense of anger, to put things right.

But it's hard not to feel sorry for him.















All we will hear about during the Olympics is dreams made, but ones dashed are just as emotional for all the wrong reasons.



Saints Spotlight



SAINTS' FIRST TEAM FIXTURES AND RESULTS 2011/12

																
AUGUST																
Sat 6 Leeds	H	W 3-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Martin	Harding	Do Prado**	Hammond*** 1	Cork	Lallana 1	Lambert	Connolly* 1	De Ridder*	Chaplow**	Schneiderlin**
Tues 9 Torquay (CC1)	A	W 4-1	Bialkowski	Butterfield	Seaborne	Martin	Dickson	De Ridder** 1	Chaplow 1	Schneiderlin	Holmes*	Lambert 1	Do Prado***	Lallana*	Hammond**	Forte*** 1
Sat 13 Barnsley	A	W 1-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Seaborne	Harding	Do Prado*	Hammond	Cork	Lallana***	Lambert	Connolly** 1	Chaplow*	De Ridder**	Schneiderlin***
Tues 16 Ipswich	A	W 5-2	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Seaborne	Harding	Do Prado*	Hammond	Cork	Lallana*** 2	Lambert 2	Connolly** 1	Schneiderlin*	Fox**	De Ridder***
Sat 20 Millwall	H	W 1-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Seaborne	Harding	Do Prado 1	Hammond*	Cork	Lallana**	Lambert	Connolly***	Schneiderlin*	De Ridder***	De Ridder***
Sat 27 Leicester	A	L 2-3	Davis	Richardson*	Fonte	Seaborne	Harding*** 1	Do Prado**	Hammond	Cork	Lallana	Lambert	Connolly 1	Schneiderlin*	De Ridder**	Fox***
Tues 30 Swindon (CC2)	A	W 3-1	Bialkowski	Richardson	Seaborne	Martin	Harding	Holmes**	Schneiderlin	Cork	Lallana	Forte* 1	Do Prado*** 1	Lambert* 1	Hammond**	Hoskins***
SEPTEMBER																
Sat 10 Nottm Forest	H	W 3-2	Davis	Cork	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Do Prado*	Hammond	Hammond	Lallana	Lambert 3	Connolly**	Chaplow*	De Ridder**	Schneiderlin**
Sun 18 Birmingham	H	W 4-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Do Prado* 1	Hammond	Cork**	Lallana*** 1	Lambert 1	Connolly	Chaplow* 1	De Ridder***	De Ridder***
Wed 21 Preston (CC3)	H	W 2-1	Bialkowski	Butterfield	Martin	Hooiveld** 1	Dickson	De Ridder*	Schneiderlin	Chaplow	Holmes	Reeves	Forte***	Lallana* 1	Fonte**	Lambert***
Sat 24 Burnley	A	D 1-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Do Prado*	Hammond***	Cork	Lallana	Lambert	Connolly	Chaplow*	Schneiderlin** 1	
Wed 28 Cardiff	A	L 1-2	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Do Prado	Schneiderlin	Cork**	Lallana	Lambert	Connolly*	De Ridder* 1	Chaplow**	
OCTOBER																
Sat 1 Watford	H	W 4-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	De Ridder*	Hammond	Cork**	Lallana***	Lambert 2	Do Prado 1	Chaplow*	Schneiderlin**	Holmes*** 1
Sat 15 Derby	A	D 1-1	Davis	Richardson**	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Do Prado***	Schneiderlin	Cork	Chaplow*	Lambert 1	Connolly	De Ridder*	Hammond**	Harding***
Tues 18 West Ham	H	W 1-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld 1	Fox	Do Prado***	Hammond	Schneiderlin	Chaplow*	Lambert	Connolly**	Harding*	Cork**	De Ridder***
Sat 22 Reading	A	D 1-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte*	Hooiveld	Fox	Do Prado***	Hammond	Cork	Chaplow	Lambert	Connolly**	Martin*	De Ridder** 1	Schneiderlin***
Tues 25 Crystal Palace (CC4)	A	L 0-2	Bialkowski	Butterfield	Martin	Cork	Harding	De Ridder	Ward-Prowse	Schneiderlin	Holmes**	Reeves***	Forte*	Barnard*	Lambert**	Do Prado***
Sat 29 Middlesbrough	H	W 3-0	Davis	Butterfield	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Chaplow	Hammond***	Cork	Lallana**	Lambert	Do Prado* 2	Connolly* 1	Schneiderlin**	De Ridder***
NOVEMBER																
Tues 1 Peterborough	H	W 2-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld 1	Harding	Chaplow*** 1	Hammond	Schneiderlin	Lallana**	Lambert	Do Prado*	De Ridder*	Connolly**	Cork***
Sat 5 Coventry	A	W 4-2	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Chaplow* 1	Cork	Schneiderlin	Lallana*** 1	Lambert	Do Prado*** 1	Hammond*	De Ridder** 1	Connolly***
Sat 19 Brighton	H	W 3-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Chaplow	Hammond*	Cork	Lallana**	Lambert 3	Do Prado***	Schneiderlin*	De Ridder***	Barnard***
Sat 26 Bristol City	A	L 0-2	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Chaplow	Hammond	Cork	Lallana**	Lambert	Do Prado***	Schneiderlin*	De Ridder**	Barnard***
Tues 29 Hull	H	W 2-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Harding	Schneiderlin	Hammond	Cork*	Lallana 1	Lambert**	Do Prado*** 1	De Ridder*	Barnard**	Holmes***
DECEMBER																
Sat 3 Doncaster	A	L 0-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	De Ridder*	Hammond	Cork**	Lallana	Schneiderlin	Do Prado	Holmes*	Barnard**	
Sat 10 Blackpool	H	D 2-2	Bialkowski	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox**	Schneiderlin	Hammond*	Cork	Lallana	Lambert 2	Do Prado	De Ridder*	Harding**	
Sun 18 Portsmouth	A	D 1-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox*	Schneiderlin	Hammond	Cork	Lallana	Lambert 1	Do Prado	Harding*	Hammond**	
Mon 26 Crystal Palace	H	W 2-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	De Ridder*	Schneiderlin**	Cork	Lallana	Lambert	Do Prado 2	Connolly*	Hammond**	
Fri 30 Bristol City	H	L 0-1	Davis	Richardson***	Martin	Hooiveld	Fox	De Ridder	Schneiderlin**	Cork	Lallana*	Lambert	Do Prado	Connolly*	Hammond**	Holmes***
JANUARY																
Mon 2 Brighton	A	L 0-3	Davis	Richardson	Martin	Hooiveld	Harding*	Do Prado**	Hammond	Cork	Lallana***	Lambert	Connolly	Fox*	Forte**	Reeves***
Sat 7 Coventry (FAC 3)	A	W 2-1	Bialkowski	Harding***	Martin 1	Hooiveld	Fox	Schneiderlin	Hammond	Cork	W-Prowse** 1	Lallana	Doble*	Hoskins*	Reeves**	Stephens***
Sat 14 Notts Forest	A	W 3-0	Davis	Harding**	Martin	Hooiveld	Fox	Cork	Hammond	Schneiderlin 1	Lallana***	Do Prado* 1	Connolly	Holmes*	Butterfield**	Reeves***
Mon 23 Leicester	H	L 0-2	Davis	Harding	Martin	Hooiveld***	Fox	Cork	Hammond**	Schneiderlin	Falque*	Do Prado	Connolly	Holmes*	De Ridder**	Richardson***
Sat 28 Millwall (FAC)	A	D 1-1	Bialkowski	Harding	Martin	Fox	Richardson	De Ridder*	Hammond	Reeves	Puncheon***	Lambert 1	Barnard**	Holmes*	Lee**	Shaw***
Tues 31 Cardiff	H	D 1-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Martin	Fox	Puncheon*	Schneiderlin	Cork	Lallana	Lambert 1	Connolly**	Lee*	Hammond**	
FEBRUARY																
Sat 4 Birmingham	A	D 0-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Martin	Fox	Puncheon**	Schneiderlin	Cork***	Lallana	Lambert	Connolly*	Sharp*	Do Prado**	Hammond***
Tues 7 Millwall (FAC replay)	H	L 2-3	Bialkowski	Richardson	Fonte	Martin	Harding	De Ridder***	Hammond	Chaplow**	Lallana 1	Do Prado*	Lee	Lambert* 1	Reeves**	Barnard***
Sat 11 Burnley	H	W 2-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Do Prado**	Cork	Schneiderlin	Lallana 1	Lambert**	Sharp*	Connolly*	Hammond**	Lee***
Tues 14 West Ham	A	D 1-1	Davis	Richardson**	Fonte	Hooiveld 1	Fox	Do Prado*	Cork	Schneiderlin	Lallana	Lambert	Sharp***	Puncheon*	Connolly**	Hammond***
Sat 18 Derby	H	W 4-0	Davis	Harding	Fonte	Hooiveld* 1	Fox	Chaplow***	Cork	Schneiderlin	Lallana 1	Lambert	Sharp**	Martin* 1	Lee** 1	Puncheon***
Sat 25 Watford	A	W 3-0	Davis	Butterfield	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Chaplow	Cork	Schneiderlin	Lallana*	Lambert*** 3	Lee**	Puncheon*	Hammond**	Connolly***
MARCH																
Sat 3 Leeds	A	W 1-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox***	Chaplow	Cork	Schneiderlin	Puncheon*	Lambert 1	Lee**	Hammond*	Do Prado**	Harding***
Tues 6 Ipswich	H	D 1-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Harding	Do Prado*	Hammond	Schneiderlin	Lallana***	Lambert 1	Lee**	De Ridder*	Sharp**	Cork***
Sat 10 Barnsley	H	W 2-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Do Prado	Hammond	Schneiderlin	Lallana*** 2	Lambert*	Lee**	Cork*	Connolly**	Sharp***
Sat 17 Millwall	A	W 3-2	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Chaplow*	Hammond**	Schneiderlin	Lallana**	Lambert 3	Do Prado	De Ridder*	Sharp**	Cork***
Tues 20 Hull	A	W 2-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld 1	Fox***	Puncheon**	Cork	Schneiderlin	Lallana	Lambert	Do Prado*	De Ridder*	Hammond**	Harding***
Sat 24 Doncaster	H	W 2-0	Davis	Butterfield	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	De Ridder**	Cork	Schneiderlin	Lallana***	Lambert*	Sharp 2	Chaplow*	Barnard**	Hammond***
Sat 31 Blackpool	A															
APRIL																
Sat 7 Portsmouth	H															
Mon 9 Crystal Palace	A															
Fri 13 Reading	H															
Tues 17 Peterborough	A															
Sat 21 Middlesbrough	A															
Sat 28 Coventry	H															

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG		LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG		LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
KELVIN DAVIS	37	0	1	0	267	0	STEVE DE RIDDER	5(21)	3	5	1	10(21)	4	RYAN DOBLE	0	0	1	0	1	0
BARTOSZ BIALKOWSKI	1	0	7	0	41(1)	0	RICHARD CHAPLOW	12(8)	3	3	1	42(11)	6	DANNY FOX	29(4)	0	3	0	32(4)	0
TOMMY FORECAST	0	0	0	0	0	0	DEAN HAMMOND	25(11)	1	3(3)	0	123(15)	11	JOS HOOIVLED	32	5	2	1	34	6
DANNY BUTTERFIELD	3(1)	0	3	0	42(4)	0	JACK CORK	33(5)	0	4	0	61(6)	0	JAMES WARD-PROWSE	0	0	2	0	2	0
FRAZER RICHARDSON	31	0	4	0	52(7)	0	MORGAN SCHNEIDERLIN	25(12)	2	6	0	127(27)	3	SAM HOSKINS	0	0	0(2)	0	0(2)	0
DAN HARDING	12(6)	1	5	0	110(9)	5	ADAM LALLANA	33	10	4(2)	2	167(19)	46	JACK STEPHENS	0	0	0(1)	0	0(1)	0
RYAN DICKSON	0	0	2	0	19(11)	1	LEE HOLMES	0(5)	1	4(1)	0	21(21)	3	YAGO FALQUE	1	0	0	0	1	0
BEN REEVES	0(2)	0	3(2)	0	3(4)	0	RICKIE LAMBERT	35	24	3(4)	5	143(7)	85	JASON PUNCHEON	3(3)	0	2	0	44(3)	3
JOSE FONTE	34	0	2(1)	0	108(1)	7	LEE BARNARD	0(5)	0	1(2)	0	45(27)	24	TADANARI LEE	4(2)	1	1(2)	0	5(4)	1
RADHI JAIDI	0	0	0	0	67(1)	4	GULY DO PRADO	33(2)	10	3(1)	1	63(15)	22	LUKE SHAW	0	0	0(1)	0	0(1)	0
AARON MARTIN	6(2)	1	8	0	22(6)	1	DAVID CONNOLLY	16(9)	6	1	0	37(30)	17	BILLY SHARP	4(4)	2	0	0	4(4)	2
DAN SEABORNE	4	0	2	0	35(15)	0	JONATHAN FORTE	0(1)	0	3(1)	2	5(10)	4							

KEY: LA: league appearances. LG: league goals. CA: cup appearances. CG: cup goals. CSA: career Saints appearances. CSG: career Saints goals.

SOUTHERN
Daily Echo

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Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be – clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

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If there is still no entry showing the exact centre of the ball, the process is repeated until there is an exact centre of the ball winner.

If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

RESULTS



CLOSING DATE FOR POSTAL ENTRIES
Wednesday,
4 April
2012
Names of winners will be published on
Saturday 7 April or Sunday 8 April 2012

An incident in a Coventry v Southampton match

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March 31, 2012 Please cross box

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Daily Echo

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Otters anniversary

OTTERBOURNE FC are celebrating their 50th anniversary with a dinner at The Novotel Southampton later this year. Tickets for the three-course dinner on October 20 have already been snapped up by scores of former players but more are available, priced £30 each.

The evening will be hosted by Mike Osman, right, who will also provide the after-dinner entertainment.

To reserve your tickets, please email ian.ritchie5@btopenworld.com or geoff.mattey@yahoo.co.uk. Information and any news regarding the event will be posted on otterbournefc.co.uk. Formed as North End Old Boys in 1962/63, the club began playing on the old North End School pitch in Eastleigh before becoming Otterbourne FC in 1986 and joining Southampton Junior League Division TEN!



Town plan to join Wessex elite

PETERSFIELD Town are looking for a new first team manager for next season.

Current first team boss Matt Short will be stepping down at the end of the season and the Sydenhams Wessex One club are searching for his replacement.

Chairman Graeme Moir is looking for someone who can take the club forward and build on the good work that has already been carried out at the club.

He said: "We are looking for someone who can take us forward – we want to be competitive in this division and also be a contender for promotion."

"Our aim is to get promoted to the Wessex Premier Division as soon as we can and retain our position in this division and slowly build the club up so it continues to grow in status."

"We also enter the FA Cup and FA Vase each season and are looking to have stronger perfor-

mances in these and the other cup competitions we enter."

"We also have close links with the town's junior club and the development of young players from the youth team through to the reserves and first team level is also important to us."

"The candidate who gets the job will need to be someone who can build a successful first team with the aim of getting us promoted, while also helping to develop the young talent coming through the

club's ranks so that they have the opportunity of breaking into the reserves and first team in the future."

Anyone who wants to apply for the job of first team manager should send a covering letter and CV to Petersfield Town chairman Graeme Moir via email at: graeme.moir@thepost.co.uk or via post to: 56 Dore Avenue, Portchester, Hants, PO16 8BX.

The closing date for applications is April 10.

GRADE NEWS FOR THE DOLPHINS

PROMOTION CHANCE:
Poole Town boss Tommy Killick.



Southern League status secured

POOLE Town's Southern League status has been secured after the club's Tatnam ground passed the FA's D grade – enabling the Dolphins to compete in the end of season play-offs.

Dolphins vice-chairman Chris Reeves confirmed that the party of officials, led by the FA's facilities manager for the South West Simon Wood, were satisfied the club had completed the necessary work, **writes ANDY MITCHELL.**

Only the path on the school side of the ground will need the final green light from Wembley chiefs.

However, the club expects the path to be passed, although that decision will not affect the award of the D grade.

After the inspection, Reeves told the *Bournemouth Daily Echo* (sister paper of the *Southern Daily Echo*): "We're delighted to say everything is fine – the chap was extremely complimentary with what we have done, so it was a relief."

"They have categorically assured us that all the issues and bits and pieces listed have been dealt with and they have given us a tick in every area."

"The expectation is that the fourth side of the ground will be fine – Simon (Wood) has to send some photos to FA headquarters, but that will only duplicate what had already been sent by us when we laid the path."

"We were pretty confident before the inspection and the expectation is that the path will be fine – we're just awaiting the formal green light."

The grading allows Tommy Killick's Dolphins into the Southern League Premier Division should they win the play-offs, with the C grade required by March 31, 2013, if they do go up.

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Daily Echo

NON-LEAGUE RESULTS - SEE BACK PAGE

Non-league Football

FAIR PLAY IS NOT LOST YET

Non-league News

Stockford returns
AFC Totton manager Stuart Ritchie is delighted to have signed Pompey teenager Lewis Stockford on loan for the rest of the season.

The attacking midfielder has returned to the Testwood Stadium after his recent month with the Stags, with Nathan Campbell set to miss three of the last four games following his sending off at Hitchin Town on Monday.

Ritchie, pictured, said: "[Pompey academy manager] Andy Awford is happy for Lewis to spend the rest of the season for us which is great news for us."

"He passes the ball nicely and has a goal in him."

Meanwhile, Stags goalkeeper Grant Porter has been loaned to Swindon Supermarine till the end of the season.

With James Bittner Totton's current number one, Porter has taken the chance to get first-team experience with the Evo-stik Southern Premier's bottom team.

And he could be in a position to do his Totton teammate a favour when Swindon visit leaders Brackley in two weeks' time.



League's ref appeal
The Sydenhams Wessex League is looking for an Assistant Referees Secretary for next season.

Anyone requiring further information should contact secretary Nick Taplin (07713 255906, referees.wessexleague@googlemail.com) or League Secretary John Gorman (01256 770059, secretary.wessexleague@googlemail.com).

Inaugural final

THE first Southampton Health Kicks Midweek Floodlit League Plate and Cup Finals will be played at Sholing FC on Monday evening.

Southfield Saints FC and Bridge FC kick off The Plate final at 7pm, and the Cup Final is between Phoenix FC and Cutbush Wednesday FC from 8.30pm.

Southampton Mayor Terry Matthews will be at the presentation of both cups as well as the league title.

New Totton chairman to uphold his high standards

THE new chairman of Totton & Eling wants the Sydenhams Wessex Premier club to earn a reputation for fair play.

Edmond Holmes, a former Wessex League referee, was installed as chairman at Little Testwood Farm last month following a conversation on the touchline at Romsey Town's Bypass Ground, writes **SIMON WALTER**.

He replaces Glenn Donovan, who left shortly after joining last summer.

"When I said I'd like to become chairman of a local football club, I was told Totton & Eling were looking for one and that it was the sort of club that I might be interested in," explained Holmes, a pilot of light aircraft in his spare time.

"I pondered on it for a long time but after meeting the guys I decided to accept. It's an interesting club, having moved from being a social club at BAT to being a club in its own right but without the backing of a major company."

A former chairman of the Southampton Referees' Association, Holmes will be encouraging discipline from the club's players.

"One thing I cannot put up with is constant dissent towards officials and other players – that's my pet hate," he said.

In the long-term, he is hoping to pilot the club out of the Wessex League.

"I think it can go quite a long way as there are some very hard workers established at the club and the players really seem to enjoy playing for Kevin Dawtry (pictured below), who's a good and positive manager."

"I'm looking forward to helping and supporting a really good team. But we don't want to run before we can walk so we'll be developing the youth set-up and laying some good foundations," he said.



THE EARLS OF FAWLEY: From left: Callum, Elliott and Kieran.

Photograph by Mike Vimpany

Oilers deal with three of a kind

IT'S rare indeed for three brothers to play in a soccer team of any standing.

The Wallace brothers, Danny, Rod and Ray, wrote themselves into Football League folklore when they played in the same Saints team against Sheffield Wednesday at The Dell in 1988, writes **MIKE VIMPANY**.

More locally, the Earl brothers

– Callum, Elliott and Kieran – are turning out regularly for AFC Fawley in the Sydenham's Wessex League, having been raised in the Waterside area.

Callum, 26, had trials for Reading when he was a youngster and, alongside playing, is Colin Lane's assistant manager at Holbury. Kieran skippers the Fawley team, with 20-year old

younger brother Elliott in midfield.

The sporting prowess of the Earl brothers doesn't end with soccer.

In one month's time, the trio will be swapping their light blue soccer kit for their cricket whites. All three play cricket for Fawley, Callum and Kieran as wicketkeepers, and Elliott as an off-spin bowler.



AFC FAWLEY: Back row (from left): Darren Morris, Justin Grandison, Steve Hall, Nick Lane, Den Wheeler, Adam Tong, Callum Earl, Kieran Earl, Mark Parnell, Lewis Ross. Front: Martin Buckthorpe, Aaron Blaxall, Matt Vining, Elliot Earl, Neil Croudson, Dan Mockridge, Pete Keating.

NON-LEAGUE NEWS? CALL WENDY GEE ON 023 8042 4483

Non-league Football

National football fixtures for the week ahead

Monday, April 2

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

Blackburn v Man Utd.

BLUE SQUARE BET CONFERENCE

South: Boreham Wood v Hampton & Richmond.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Premier Division: Bradford P A v Chorley.

Tuesday, April 3

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE Quarter-final second leg:

Barcelona v AC Milan, Bayern Munich v Marseille.

npower FOOTBALL LEAGUE Championship:

Burnley v Birmingham.

League One: Brentford v Oldham, Leyton Orient v Huddersfield.

League Two: Barnet v Swindon.

BLUE SQUARE BET

Premier: Gateshead v Luton, Lincoln City v Cambridge Utd, Newport County v York.

South: Eastbourne Borough v Dartford.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Premier Division: Weymouth v Chesham.

Wednesday, April 4

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE Quarter-final second leg:

Chelsea v Benfica, Real Madrid v Apoel Nicosia.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Premier Division: Ashton Utd v Rushall Olympic, Buxton v Stafford Rangers, Worksop v Burscough.

Thursday, April 5

UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE Quarter-final second leg:

Athletic Bilbao v Schalke 04, FC Metalist Kharkiv v Sporting, Hannover 96 v Atletico Madrid, Valencia v AZ.

Friday, April 6

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

Swansea v Newcastle (4.30).

npower FOOTBALL LEAGUE Championship:

Barnsley v West Ham (5.15), Burnley v Brighton (3.00), Reading v Leeds (2.00), Watford v

Blackpool (3.00).

League One: Colchester v Hartlepool, Leyton Orient v Notts County, Scunthorpe v Exeter, Tranmere v Stevenage, Wycombe v Carlisle.

League Two: AFC Wimbledon v Rotherham, Aldershot v Port Vale, Bradford v Southend, Bristol Rovers v Gillingham, Cheltenham v Barnet, Crawley Town v Crewe, Dag & Red v Burton Albion, Hereford v Plymouth, Macclesfield v Shrewsbury, Morecambe v Swindon, Northampton v Oxford Utd, Torquay v Accrington Stanley.

BLUE SQUARE BET CONFERENCE

Premier: Forest Green v Ebbsfleet United, Tamworth v Bath City, Wrexham v Alfreton Town, Newport County v AFC Telford.

South (all 3pm ko):

Basingstoke v Woking, Eastleigh v Dorchester, Thurrock v Boreham Wood.

Saturday, April 7

(All FL games 3pm ko unless stated otherwise)

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

Bolton v Fulham, Chelsea v Wigan, Liverpool v Aston Villa, Norwich v Everton, Stoke v Wolverhampton (5.30), Sunderland v Tottenham (12.45), West Brom v Blackburn.

npower FOOTBALL LEAGUE Championship:

Birmingham v Crystal Palace, Coventry v Peterborough, Derby v Ipswich, Leicester v Doncaster, Middlesbrough v Cardiff, Millwall v Hull, Nottm Forest v Bristol City (5.20), SAINTS v Portsmouth (1.00).

League One:

Brentford v Bury, Huddersfield v Sheff Wed, Oldham v Charlton, Preston v Milton Keynes Dons, Sheff Utd v Bournemouth, Walsall v Chesterfield, Yeovil v Rochdale.

BLUE SQUARE BET CONFERENCE

Premier: Braintree Town v Luton, Darlington v Grimsby, Gateshead v Barrow, Hayes & Yeading v Cambridge Utd, Kettering v Mansfield, Southport v Kidderminster, Stockport v Lincoln City, York v Fleetwood Town.

SHOLING LAND RESERVE TITLE

Inaugural title goes to Fear's young side

SHOLING reserves are champions of the inaugural Wyvern Combination League.

Manager Dave Fear's young side clinched the Premier Division title by beating Christchurch 5-3 last week, a result that put them 14 points clear of nearest rivals Eastleigh.

Two-goal Marc Diaper, Ryan Lambert, Daniel Miller and Craig King all scored as Sholing were crowned champions with three games still remaining.

Lambert gave Sholing a 2-0 lead but Christchurch were level before half-time and threatening to delay Sholing's celebrations before man-of-the-match Diaper, playing his first game after a long suspension, hit a stunning free-kick to clinch the title.

Sholing have only lost one game all season, scoring 69 goals in 21 games and conceding only 18.

They have now won 15 trophies in five years and Fear has been delighted with his players following a fourth



Simon Walter

simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk

THE MANAGEMENT ... From left: Martin Tongs, Dave Fear and Gavin Dobson.

title in five seasons.

He said: "We had several meetings during pre-season about what we wanted to do and how we were going to try and achieve it. We knew with Eastleigh entering the league and Gosport reforming, we needed more strength and fitness.

FOCUSSED

"So we got the players in early and got them focussed on what we wanted to do. Adding Martin Tongs to the management team from the under-18s alongside myself

and coach Gavin Dobson really helped, it allowed me to manage more.

"Several of our younger players have really stepped up this season. It's been a hard league, every game has been a real battle and most teams have played first-team players, as we found out at Totton the other week.

"They had three first-team players in and a fantastic trialist but up until the hour we were the better side and winning 2-1. Then they scored a goal from nothing, their first-teamers kicked into gear and we were battered for 20 minutes.

"But it was a massive learning curve for our three 18-year-old defenders playing against Steffan Brown. And we also beat a very strong Eastleigh side. Their reserves play in the suburban league but a lot of them played for their third team against us. We beat them 2-1 thanks to two goals by Jack McCarthy, who we've lost to the first team this year, along with Adam Stride.

"Next season I am led to believe that Salisbury and Havant and Weymouth may be entering teams so the League is really shaping up."

Harvey has grand ambitions for Hythe

HYTHER & Dibden manager Wayne Harvey believes his side can avoid the Sydenhams Wessex wooden spoon and finish in the top six next season.

The Watersiders have only one won of their last 14 games but after their goalless draw against Andover New Street, Harvey is confident that the only way is up.

Harvey has been in sole charge of Hythe for five months, having previously shared the role with Toby Redwood and Lee Birch.

But with his side three points

behind a Warminster side that has a game in hand, he remains optimistic.

"This is the third squad of players I've had to get together this season," he said. "We started brightly but players started leaving when suspensions started to kick in.

"Some attitudes stank but we're building for next year and now have a very strong squad. The game against Andover New Street was our first with the latest players I've brought in and I'm very pleased with them.

"The average age of the side is now only 22 and we've recently signed a couple of young strikers. We've got a 16-year-old called Charlie Willet who's done well in the last few games and Tom Hoskin's come over from Team Solent.

"He's a student but graduates in the summer and is moving down here permanently. Together with Sean Stone, who's scored 12 goals this season, and Andy Lonsdale, who's been with the club many years, we've got four strikers I'm happy with."

Despite being rooted to the foot of the table, it is unlikely Hythe will be relegated from Wessex One this year due to the league's ground grading requirements for potential newcomers.

"I don't think we'll go down, but the aim between now and the end of the season is to catch Warminster and finish second from bottom," continued Harvey. "We've got four games left and the next one against Whitchurch on Saturday is one of three we're playing at home.

"Unfortunately we haven't had a game for two weeks since playing well against Andover New Street, but I've got high hopes for next season. I've got my eye on a couple of other players I want to sign and if we can get them I'd be confident of finishing in the top six next season.

"But it's important to keep this group together because it's all about continuity. Verwood haven't got the best players individually but they've been together for four or five years and that's why they're so good as a team."

SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR MORE NON-LEAGUE NEWS

Non-league Football

Eastleigh boss's memories of end-of-season dramatics

ALBION and Middlesbrough walk out at The Amex knowing their season could go to the wire.

If that is how it turns out, their former striker Ian Baird will know how they feel, *writes Brian Owen*.

The current Eastleigh manager remembers final day drama – and celebrations – with both clubs.

He helped the Seagulls stay in the Football League in 1997. And he secured a title-winning medal for himself and Leeds in what is now called the Championship – by scoring for Boro.

Baird, who celebrates his 48th birthday tomorrow (Sunday), was sent-off on the last day at the Goldstone, as Doncaster were beaten 1-0.

But disciplinary rules at the time meant his ban did not kick in until after the 1-1 draw at Hereford on the final day which sent the Bulls down and secured Albion's League status.

Jimmy Case first brought him to the Seagulls in the summer of 1996.

Baird said: "When I joined there was so much going on with David Bellotti. I've got to say every time I met him he seemed like a nice guy but there was a deep sense of dislike for him and what he was trying to do.

"With all that, I really did enjoy it. Whenever I played at the Goldstone I always seemed to score.

"It was getting quite dilapidated when I was there it still had quite a unique atmosphere.

"I had been at Plymouth. We had just been promoted in the old second division and Casey came in for me along with a couple of other clubs.

STOP-GAP

"I always knew I was a bit of a stop-gap for Neil Warnock at Plymouth because when he signed me he told me 'I'm signing you to get promoted'.

"Brighton was closer to home because I was commuting to Plymouth from Southampton. I knew Jimmy from Southampton.

"Casey is a character. His way of management was quite different to what I had experienced. It was quite relaxed.

"We just couldn't win an away game. With all the pressure Casey had, I think it got on top of him. When he was sacked it seemed like a relief to him.

"Steve Gritt came in and we worked a lot harder on the training ground, that's for sure. But we still couldn't win an away game."

Fortunately, Albion were brilliant at home and only needed a draw at Hereford on the final day.

Baird, who scored 14 goals in his season with the Seagulls, said: "Hereford was nerve-racking because you didn't want to be part of the side that got relegated with Brighton.

"But we felt the pressure was on Hereford because they were at home and we couldn't win an away game."

Baird left the club that summer, heading for a stint in Hong Kong, but he had done his bit. Just as he did his bit for Leeds in 1990, even though he had left them during the season for



FLASHBACK:
Ian Baird in his Brighton heyday.

DOWN TO THE WIRE FOR IAN

£500,000.

As luck would have it, he lined up for Boro on the final day knowing victory over leaders Newcastle would give Leeds a chance to nick the title by winning at Bournemouth.

He said of the move to Teesside: "It was me being petulant. I had played every one of Howard Wilkinson's games since he had come in, which was about 85 on the bounce.

"He decided to sign Lee Chapman and I threw my dummy out. He said to me he didn't want me to go, I said to him 'Well, I am going'.

Middlesbrough agreed the deal. "I had in the back of my mind that, if Leeds won the title, I had played enough games to get a medal.

"I scored two on the final day, Bernie Slaven scored two and it all worked out well.

"I really enjoyed Boro. There were

some very good players, the likes of Stuart Ripley, Colin Cooper, Tony Mowbray, but they were on a bit of a downward spiral. Bruce Rioch signed me and then got sacked within three games.

"Colin Todd took over and we went on a really bad run but we managed to stay up at the end of the season.

"The following season we got beat in the play-offs by a very good Notts County side."

FINAL

County went on to beat Albion in the final with a top-flight place at stake. Which shows how fast things deteriorated before Baird did his bit to keep them in the league just six years later.

Now Baird the manager, assisted by former Albion pro Shaun Wilkinson, has his own slide to arrest. Albeit not on the same scale.

Baird, who also rents out properties and is involved with a scaffolding company, describes his manager's role at Eastleigh as almost full-time.

Ahead of today's game with his old mate Tommy Widdrington and Eastbourne Borough, he said: "We are on the back end of four league defeats on the bounce.

"We started the season with the remit of staying in the league. Come January we had a takeover and an influx of players.

"We were right in the frame until four or five games ago and we have dropped right off. The pressure is on. "I don't enjoy all the behind the scenes wrangling that come with management.

"I enjoy the training nights. I enjoy the Saturdays, especially when we win.

"I never get too up when we win, I never get too down when we lose. But, yes, of course I enjoy it."

Non-league News

Stags fall at Chesham

AFC Totton lost further ground in the promotion chase after going down 2-1 to fellow play-off contenders Chesham United.

The Stages fell behind after 18 minutes when a Charlie Knight error allowed Inih Effiong to gain possession and play in Steve Wales who squared for Simon Thomas to fire home into an empty net.

Then on 36 minutes more slack defending by the Totton defence saw James Potton run unchallenged to the edge of the area before pushing the ball wide to Wales who shot past James Bittner.

The Stags pulled a goal back with an hour played as Nathan Jack shot into the ground the ball sat up kindly at the far post for Mark Osman to nod in but, despite going close late on, were unable to find an equaliser.

Spitfires get a home win

EASTLEIGH ended a run of three consecutive home defeats with a 2-1 win over Eastbourne Borough at the Silverlake.

Eastleigh took an early lead when Gary Elphrick followed up to score after Chris Flood's first effort was saved by Eastbourne goalkeeper Clark Masters.

They scored the second goal four minutes into the second half when Tom Jordan headed home Darrell McMahon's corner.

However, mid-way through the second half a long throw from Gary Charman was met by a bicycle kick from substitute Ellis Remy to pull a goal back.

Both sides then had chances to add to their tally – with Chris Flood clearing one off the line for Eastleigh and Spitfires substitute Lee Phillips forced a good save from Clark Masters in the Eastbourne goal.

Whites held by Welling

SALISBURY City were held to a 0-0 home draw by play-off chasing Welling.

Although Welling had two chances in the first 23 minutes, with Joe Healy sending a diving header well over the top on 13 minutes and ten minutes later Loui Fazakerly heading over the top from Andy Sambrook's cross.

On 24 minutes Salisbury defender Ryan Brett sent in a 35-yard effort which dipped only just over the Welling bar.

And five minutes before the break Salisbury keeper Mark Scott had his first serious action, clawing away a Ben Greenhalgh shot.

Welling had a chance to grab the points eight minutes from time, when Salisbury captain Chris Giles, brought down Harry Baker in the area. But the Whites were relieved when Dean Cracknell missed the spot kick by a mile.

GOT A NON-LEAGUE STORY - CALL 023 8042 4515

Ref just followed the letter of the law

A REFEREE has hit back after being accused of trying to influence a result by sending off four players from the same team.

Roy Moysie red carded the quartet during Queens Park's shock defeat by New Star United in the quarter-final of the Robbins Cup on Bournemouth last weekend.

Premier Division title contenders Queens Park finished with only seven men and bowed out 4-2 after extra-time to the Division One outfit at Chapel Gate.

John Taylor and Mike Johnston were dismissed for using foul or abusive language to the referee, while Steve Flynn received two yellow cards and Matt Harvey went for denying a goalscoring opportunity.

Queens Park also had four other players booked and will now face a multi-player misconduct charge from the Hampshire FA.

New Star, who had one player cautioned, will meet Shoulder of Mutton in the semi-final following their 2-1 win over West Moors SSC – in a game played simultaneously and at a different venue.

Queens Park boss Bilal Yasin claimed Moysie had favoured New Star due to an alleged connection with Shoulder of Mutton, an accusation the official strongly refuted.

"We felt the referee was incapable of refereeing a game at this level," said Yasin.

"He was on a power trip and wanted the game to be all about him. People were getting booked for very stupid things and he wanted to send off as many as he could."

Yasin added: "We have nothing against New Star. They played really well and deserved their victory."

In a statement, Moysie said: "As I do after every game, I have reflected on the decisions and stand by all of them."

"It is my responsibility and duty as a referee to enforce the laws of the game."

"My appointment to this match was known to Queens Park a week before. If they had any concerns about me refereeing they should have raised the matter with the FA before the match and not after they had lost."

"The FA has spent a lot of time, effort and money on the respect (the referee) campaign. I would be failing the FA, players and fellow referees if I did not carry out my duties."

"As for Queens Park, the FA has a very fair and robust appeal procedure in place if they wish to follow that path. But I will be standing by the decisions I made."

"This is a classic example of a football team whose lack of discipline has cost them a game they should have won."

"I am sure the FA will use this experience to send out a clear message to all clubs and players that abuse of match officials will not be tolerated."

"As a referee, I do not tolerate dissent or foul and abusive language that is directed towards me. Why would any referee want to go out and referee to be verbally abused?"



FOOTBALL EXTRA --- FOOTBALL EXTRA --- FOOTBALL EXTRA

The money train

A University of Leicester sociologist has taken part in a conference to celebrate the British hosting of the Olympic Games and which asked: 'Is there too much money in sport?'

John Williams, from the University of Leicester Department of Sociology, took part in the debate at the French Institute in London.

The conference asked: "At a time when the billionaires of

Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Russia are treating themselves to some of Europe's biggest clubs, should football still be viewed as a fully fledged Olympic sport?

Is it even a sport at all, or just another business?"

And has the beautiful game been tainted by this influx of money?"

The discussion also addressed the subject of sport betting. Should the advent of online betting be seen as a genuine threat to fair play and the spirit of sport?

Williams argued that despite its obvious strengths, the British game faced some deep-seated, debilitating problems – ones rooted in failings in the funding and maintenance of the economic infrastructure of the domestic game itself.

There are a number of key indicators on the scale of the problem, he said.

- Since the satellite TV-funded Premier League club breakaway in 1992, on an unprecedented 54 occasions have football clubs in England and Wales been declared effectively bankrupt and placed into administration.

South coast trio Saints, Portsmouth (twice) and Bournemouth (twice) are among the list of clubs who have gone into administration.

In Italy, Spain and elsewhere there are tales of economic problems, but perhaps not on this scale.

- Significantly, the recent impetus for applying potentially fatal pressure on financially failing UK football clubs has come, increasingly, from public as well as private sources.

Since 2009 alone the UK tax authorities HMRC have issued 26 winding up petitions against a selection of Football League and one Premier League club (Pompey).

Football clubs seem no longer to be protected from economic realism because of their identities as important 'community' assets.

- The financial gap between the Premier League and the Football League has induced middle-range clubs into excessive, short term risk taking – sometimes to near disastrous effect.

- Also, according to PFA figures, in 1992 average basic weekly earnings of players in the English top flight were £1,482, compared to £320 a week in the lowest professional tier.

By 2009/10 average basic top football wages in England had increased some 15-fold to £22,353; but lower-end wages had only just more than doubled, to a very moderate £747.

Most professional footballers today still

WHAT A DIFFERENCE:

Carlos Tevez earns slightly more per week than the first ever Premiership footballers did back in 1992/93 ...

have more in common – economically and probably culturally too – with skilled manual workers than they do with the huge endorsements, sponsorships and global football celebrities featured on the magazine circuits.

Williams argued that the local industrialists and businessmen of yore, or members of local paternalistic family dynasties who typically owned clubs and came to the role with a carefully scripted 'duty of care' order towards its local supporters, are increasingly rare.

At the top end of the sport in England today, local millionaires and family supporters are gradually being replaced by global multi-millionaires or even billionaires in the boardrooms.

These include heads of state, global capitalists, or faceless corporate investors who hope for a return – psychic or material – on their investments in English football.

"Living, as we do, in what criminologists call the 'now society' in which gratification is seldom knowingly deferred, both 'jam-today', success-hungry fans and the game's official guardians, seemingly, must take offers of external benevolence and commitment largely on trust. In straightened times, who can afford to look a deregulated gift horse in the mouth?" said Williams.

Finally, Williams argued that there may yet be glimmers of regulatory hope beyond British shores.

UEFA's proposed new licensing regime aimed at producing 'financial fair play' by limiting the spending and debt of top European clubs, offers perhaps the most viable prospect of a much needed transnational form of future ethical football governance, one aimed against financial exploitation and recklessness.

He concludes: "But this also raises the crucial question: can UEFA really afford to eject its star television names from its elite competitions for alleged financial excesses?"

"After all, which football supporter does not want to see his or her club pay out the largest transfer for the best player and hang the wages – and the future?"

"We wait, as they say, to be amazed."



TURN TO PAGE 48 FOR TODAY'S RESULTS

Golf Spotlight

APRIL 5 - 8, 2012

US MASTERS

Hole-by-hole guide

CARD

FRONT NINE

Hole	Yards	Par	Hole	Yards	Par
1	445	4	6	180	3
2	575	5	7	450	4
3	350	4	8	570	5
4	240	3	9	460	4
5	455	4	OUT	3,725	36

BACK NINE

Hole	Yards	Par	Hole	Yards	Par
10	495	4	15	530	5
11	505	4	16	170	3
12	155	3	17	440	4
13	510	5	18	465	4
14	440	4	IN	3,710	36

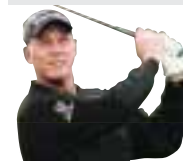
Total: Par 72, 7,435 yards

Holes not to scale

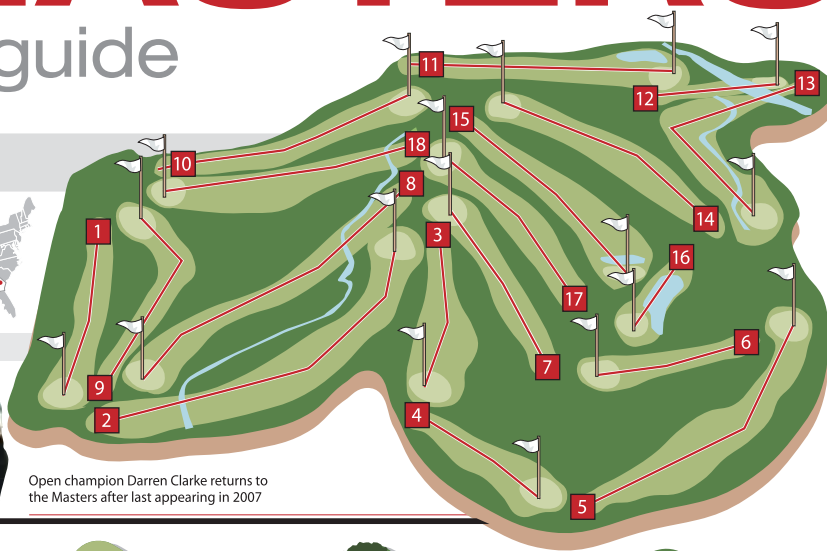
AUGUSTA NATIONAL



Georgia, USA



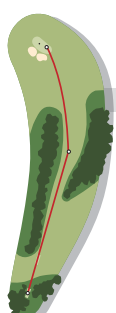
Open champion Darren Clarke returns to the Masters after last appearing in 2007



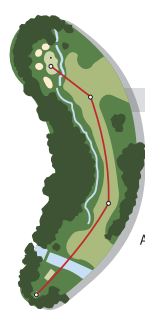
1 (Tea Olive)
Par 4, 445 yards
2011 statistics:
Eagles: 1
Birdies: 14
Pars: 199
Bogeys: 76
Double bogeys: 6
Other: 0
Average: 4.24 (2)



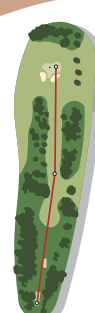
5 (Magnolia)
Par 4, 455 yards
2011 statistics:
Eagles: 0
Birdies: 22
Pars: 208
Bogeys: 64
Double bogeys: 2
Other: 0
Average: 4.16 (8)



9 (Carolina Cherry)
Par 4, 460 yards
2011 statistics:
Eagles: 0
Birdies: 44
Pars: 202
Bogeys: 48
Double bogeys: 2
Other: 0
Average: 4.03 (12)



13 (Azalea)
Par 5, 510 yards
2011 statistics:
Eagles: 13
Birdies: 137
Pars: 115
Bogeys: 24
Double bogeys: 6
Other: 1
Average: 4.58 (18)



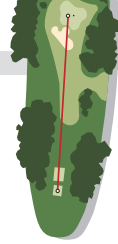
17 (Nandina)
Par 4, 440 yards
2011 statistics:
Eagles: 0
Birdies: 26
Pars: 196
Bogeys: 71
Double bogeys: 3
Other: 0
Average: 4.17 (5)



2 (Pink Dogwood)
Par 5, 575 yards
2011 statistics:
Eagles: 4
Birdies: 119
Pars: 146
Bogeys: 25
Double bogeys: 2
Other: 0
Average: 4.67 (16)



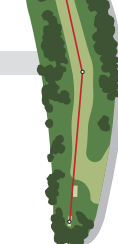
6 (Juniper)
Par 3, 180 yards
2011 statistics:
Eagles: 0
Birdies: 35
Pars: 199
Bogeys: 61
Double bogeys: 1
Other: 0
Average: 3.09 (10)



10 (Camellia)
Par 4, 495 yards
2011 statistics:
Eagles: 0
Birdies: 31
Pars: 195
Bogeys: 61
Double bogeys: 7
Other: 2
Average: 4.17 (6)



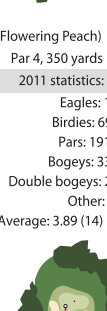
14 (Chinese Fir)
Par 4, 440 yards
2011 statistics:
Eagles: 0
Birdies: 64
Pars: 191
Bogeys: 37
Double bogeys: 4
Other: 0
Average: 3.94 (13)



18 (Holly)
Par 4, 465 yards
2011 statistics:
Eagles: 0
Birdies: 49
Pars: 167
Bogeys: 72
Double bogeys: 8
Other: 0
Average: 4.13 (9)



3 (Flowering Peach)
Par 4, 350 yards
2011 statistics:
Eagles: 1
Birdies: 69
Pars: 191
Bogeys: 33
Double bogeys: 2
Other: 0
Average: 3.89 (14)



7 (Pampas)
Par 4, 450 yards
2011 statistics:
Eagles: 0
Birdies: 44
Pars: 165
Bogeys: 82
Double bogeys: 5
Other: 0
Average: 4.16 (7)



11 (White Dogwood)
Par 4, 505 yards
2011 statistics:
Eagles: 0
Birdies: 19
Pars: 182
Bogeys: 78
Double bogeys: 12
Other: 5
Average: 4.33 (1)



15 (Firethorn)
Par 5, 530 yards
2011 statistics:
Eagles: 11
Birdies: 127
Pars: 133
Bogeys: 22
Double bogeys: 3
Other: 0
Average: 4.59 (17)



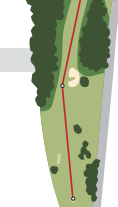
16 (Redbud)
Par 3, 170 yards
2011 statistics:
Eagles: 0
Birdies: 49
Pars: 180
Bogeys: 61
Double bogeys: 6
Other: 0
Average: 3.08 (11)



4 (Flowering Crab Apple)
Par 3, 240 yards
2011 statistics:
Eagles: 0
Birdies: 26
Pars: 188
Bogeys: 75
Double bogeys: 6
Other: 1
Average: 3.22 (4)



8 (Yellow Jasmine)
Par 5, 570 yards
2011 statistics:
Eagles: 3
Birdies: 109
Pars: 148
Bogeys: 33
Double bogeys: 2
Other: 1
Average: 4.75 (15)



12 (Golden Bell)
Par 3, 155 yards
2011 statistics:
Eagles: 0
Birdies: 44
Pars: 170
Bogeys: 59
Double bogeys: 17
Other: 6
Average: 3.23 (3)

Masters is as wide open as normal

THE first major of the year is fast approaching and the bookmakers have now made Rory McIlroy a firm favourite ahead of Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson.

But before deciding where to place your bet for the Masters, which starts next Thursday, here is a piece of advice. Think carefully.

The last two majors were won by players ranked 111th and 108th in the world - Darren Clarke at The Open and Keegan Bradley at the USPGA Championship.

Clarke, pictured below, was less than a month away from his 43rd birthday at the time and was playing in his 54th major.

Bradley had turned 25 only a month earlier and had never played in a major before.

No pattern there then.

They became the 12th and 13th different winners of the last 13 majors and, like the five immediately before them, they were lifting a major title for the first time.

Furthermore, of those seven McIlroy was the only one to be ranked in the world's top 10 when he triumphed.

Graeme McDowell, his predecessor as US Open champion, was 37th in the rankings at the time, then came Louis Oosthuizen at 54th, Martin Kaymer at 13th, Charl Schwartzel at 29th, McIlroy at eighth, then Clarke and Bradley.

The last time anybody in the top three won was Mickelson at the 2010 Masters and the last time the reigning number one was successful was Woods at the 2008 US Open.

In other words, you could not have a greater contrast between golf and tennis in the modern day.

Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal or Roger Federer have won 27 of the last 28 Grand Slam tournaments, the only exception being Juan Martin Del Potro at the 2009 US Open.

The unpredictability of golf is further illustrated by the fact that the first 12 events on the PGA Tour in America this season have produced 12 different winners.

The first nine on the European Tour, meanwhile, have seen eight different champions and the only player to double up can hardly be considered a big name - South African Branden Grace was at the qualifying school a month earlier.

Look at the last seven World Golf Championships as well.

That is the next level down from the majors and they have seen seven different winners in Francesco Molinari, Luke Donald, Nick Watney, Adam Scott, Kaymer, Hunter Mahan and, most recently, Hampshire's Justin Rose.

Kaymer is the only one on that list who has a major title to his name - and the only one who has never made the halfway cut at Augusta.

Four trips, four early exits. The 27-year-old German, who was world number one when he missed by five shots last April, really does have something to prove on his return next week.

RECENT WINNERS

2011: Charl Schwartzel
2010: Phil Mickelson
2009: Angel Cabrera
2008: Trevor Immelman
2007: Zach Johnson
2006: Phil Mickelson
2005: Tiger Woods
2004: Phil Mickelson
2003: Mike Weir
2002: Tiger Woods
2001: Tiger Woods
2000: Vijay Singh
1999: Jose Maria Olazabal
1998: Mark O'Meara
1997: Tiger Woods
1996: Nick Faldo
1995: Ben Crenshaw
1994: Jose Maria Olazabal
1993: Bernhard Langer
1992: Fred Couples
1991: Ian Woosnam
1990: Nick Faldo



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Non-league Football

■ HAYWARD SATURDAY LEAGUE

Portcastrian snatch title

PORTCASTRIAN Reserves snatched the **DIVISION SIX** trophy from A&T Athletic's grasp when Steve Pockneall's brace and Ryan Irvin gave them a 3-1 victory over third-placed West Howe, who scored a late consolation goal through George Berry.

Portcastrian 1st XI's 2-0 win over Hamworthy Recreation was their tenth successive victory in the **PREMIER DIVISION** and they are now just three points adrift of leaders Bournemouth Manor with a game in hand. Ben Virabi opened the scoring at the beginning of the second half and Tim Constable added a second in the closing stages.

Bournemouth Electric are in third place after Jolyan May (2), Leigh Phillips and Mike Wynne (pen) gave them the edge 4-3 against Redlynch & Woodfalls United.

Ed Ewens and Josh Wall netted for reigning champions Westover Bournemouth but they had to settle for a point when Dave Rimmer struck twice to earn Allendale a 2-2 draw.

Sway skipper Gareth Barnes settled the issue 1-0 against Old Oakmeadians while Parley Sports just got the better of Trinidad 2-1 thanks to Adam Janes and Johnny Cook. Karl Foster was the Trinidad marksman.

FC Bournemouth made Mudford Men's Club wait a little longer before they can claim the **DIVISION ONE** title when they replaced Bournemouth Electric Reserves in the runners-up spot by upending them 3-1 with goals from Paul Conroy, Luke McCoy and Reg Jones.

Steve Godfrey steered Sturminster Marshall to a 1-0 win over Alderholt while Twynham Rangers recovered a three-goal deficit through Matthew Nicholls, Mitchell Keet and Ryan O'Reilly only for Harrington United to grab an 88th minute winner to shade it 4-3. John Murray, Sean Read, Paul Wilkinson and a Robbie Scadding were the Harrington marksmen.

DIVISION TWO pacesetters Richmond Park Con returned to winning ways

when Mark Pudney (2), Sami Garcia and Damian Parnell ensured a 4-1 victory over St Marys whose consolation goal came from Craig Seymour.

New Milton Linnetts hold on to second place with Ross Grierson (2) and Will Ireland giving them the verdict 3-2 against Mploy, while Queens Park Athletic remain two points behind them after their 2-1 win over Sway Reserves through Mike Thompson and an own goal.

Bournemouth Electric A continue to lead **DIVISION THREE** on goal difference after Brad Gould, Sam Phillips and Steve Flynn ensured a 3-1 success against FC Athletic.

Toby Holmes led the way with a hat-trick when nearest rivals Parley Sports A spanked third-placed Bisterne Rangers 6-0 with Adam Green, Kingsley White and Adam Stanley adding one each.

Lee Barratt scored both goals in Winton Borough's 2-0 success against Redhill Rangers, while Tony Randall (2), Luke Charity, Lee Syrett and James Dorrington gave Downton Sports the bragging rights after 5-1 derby triumph over Redlynch & Woodfalls United Reserves.

BU Staff move up to second place in **DIVISION FOUR**, nine points adrift of leaders AFC Pennington with six games in hand, after their 5-1 triumph over Napoleons. Tom Symons (2), Shaun Osborne, Ben Cooper and Tom Wainwright were the BU marksmen with Mark Aspin scoring Napoleon's consolation goal.

New Milton Eagles crashed to their third defeat in four outings when they went down 3-0 to goals from Billy McCormick (2) and Mitch Hack against Fife Standards.

FC Bournemouth Reserves netted through Chris Lock, Jason Lock, and Ben Hiscock in **DIVISION FIVE** but Bransgore United emerged 6-3 winners thanks to Michael Dawson (2), Keiron Kentish, Sean Barton, Greg Jones and Blake Vincent.

RAILWAY HIT THE BUFFERS

BRANKSOME Railway led with goals from Jack Bath and Ashley Boyt but their **PREMIER LEAGUE** title hopes were extinguished when Christchurch Royals came back with a Max Crow hat-trick to scupper them 3-2.

James Pinder netted for Branksome Con but the reigning champions were on the receiving end of a 9-1 drubbing from Queens Park Rovers. Jolyan May, Sami Garcia and Jake Ormond bagged two apiece for Rovers with Ben Shephard, Mickey Toy and Jake Jordan adding one each.

Foresters Arms are the new leaders of **DIVISION ONE** after Tom Brown (2), Aaron Duncan (2) and Jamie Chilcott gave them a 5-2 victory over Bournemouth Athletic.

Bournemouth Electric netted through Sam Adams and Robert Stephen but Harry's Bar just got the better of them 3-2 thanks to goals from Davie Hamilton, Nick Dominy and Russell Orchard.

Vienna Windows are champions of **DIVISION TWO** after Danny Rattew and Ross Singleton scored two each to subdue Ferndside Sports 4-1 in their final game of the season.

Second placed Lovitt were on the ropes when Redhill hit them with a Dean Hindle hat-trick and a goal from Harry Seal but recovered their composure to salvage a 4-4 draw thanks to Brad Molyneaux, Stuart McKillop, Terry Larcombe and Adam Leighton.

Mark Rourke scored both goals to earn Lotus Press a 2-2 draw with AC FC while Andy Masson and Sam Cole gave Tiegla Tiles the edge 2-1 against Magdon Scaffolding.

Verwood SSC take over on top of **DIVISION THREE** after Shaun Steer and Stuart Davids gave them the verdict 2-1 against third placed KC Transport whose goal came from Gary Williams.

Specialist Lettings take over on top of **DIVISION FOUR** after Lee Pearson, Lee Diaper and Antonio Marasca ensured a 3-1 success against Harbourside whose consolation goal came from Mike Singleton.

Meanwhile, Olly Luchoomun and Will Ireland struck for unbeaten promotion rivals Barton Wanderers but they had to settle for a point when



EFFORT: Action from Redlynch & Woodfalls' clash with Downton Sports

■ BFA HAYWARD SUNDAY LEAGUE

Dean Norman and Ben Chant earned Bournemouth Sports a 2-2 draw.

AFC Ringwood clinched the **DIVISION FIVE** title when they swept Magpies aside 5-0 with goals from Sean Leadbetter (2), Robert Corlett, Darren Mein and Marc Seymour.

Championship rivals Hollies spanked Victoria Park Royals 6-1 thanks to Dave Mountford's hat-trick and further goals from Steven Glover, Krysztof Hensler and Tom Pepper.

Townsend Spartans and **DIVISION SIX** promotion rivals Ace finished all square 3-3 with Charlie Foreman (2) and Parris Simpkins scoring for Spartans and Karl Nye, Chris Underwood and Aidan Kelly (pen) replying for Ace.

A & T Athletic tonked Wimborne Magpies 5-1 with goals from Daniel Wills, Mark Sanderson, Jamie Tuvey, Aaron Carrivick and Matt Bates, while Dan Rose scored both Wessex Wanderers goals in their 2-0 win over DH Britannia.

Bottom-placed AFC Burton

Reserves netted through Ryan Attree (2), Lee Miller, Mark Sallis and Luke Vare but JS West Moors had the upper hand 7-5 courtesy of a Dave Wilcock hat-trick and further goals from William Mills (2), Scott Davidson and Richard Percy.

Fiveways Rangers are set to become champions of **DIVISION SEVEN** after Lee Cobb (2), Darren Greaves and Mark Hayes ensured a 4-0 victory over Richmond Park Rangers.

Nearest rivals Ensburry Park Rangers netted through Jamie Virabi but they crashed to an unexpected 3-1 defeat against Bournemouth Electric Reserves whose goals came via Steve Blyth, Harry Shaw and Dan Woodrow.

DIVISION EIGHT frontrunners Mount went down 2-0 to goals from David Shaw and Dean Iles against Dean Park Inn and Bournemouth Borough take over in pole position after trouncing ECP 9-0 thanks to Ben Cooper's hat-trick and further goals from Michael White (2), Dan

Bailey (2), Carl House and Ross Ayley. Cranborne kept their promotion hopes alive when they upended Winkton Autos 4-1 with goals from Adam Beattie, Matt Willis, Tom Davies and Charlie Arnold, while Kinson Con also remain in contention after beating Horse & Jockey 3-1 with goals from Jason Thomas, Trevor Fisher and Peter Wyeth.

Scott V remain one point clear at the top of **DIVISION NINE** after Tom Milne (2) and Gareth Wilson gave them a 3-0 success against West Mullen.

A solitary strike from Alex Harris was enough to give nearest rivals Throop United a 1-0 win over Kings Arms Athletic and Alderholt remain in contention after Tom Cranmer and Matt Bailey gave them a 2-0 win over JP Morgan.

Josh Reavnull-Nuete rattled in four in Kings Park Dynamos' 5-2 victory over Talbot Rangers with the other goal coming from Alex James, while Boscombe Celtic Reserves shaded it 3-2 against Tower Park thanks to Steve Beale, Paul Masters and Jack Pearce.

MORE SUNDAY FOOTBALL ON PAGE 22-23

Non-league Football



ALL SMILES: Lyndhurst following their 2-1 defeat of Cadnam in the Trophyman Senior League Cup final. Picture by Tom Campbell

VIPERS ARE SNAKE IN THE GRASS ...

Fifth-placed team in with outside chance of title

THE race for the Junior 1 title is as complex as ever with even fifth-placed Veracity Vipers, who have games in hand on the sides above them, still able to win it.

Two Shane Flocks strikes secured a 2-0 victory for Vipers over AFC Grains whose own chance has now gone, **writes ROD SUTHERLAND.**

Paul West scored twice as Wombles defeated Park 3-0 to remain favourites for the silverware, just three points behind leaders Southcity but with two games in hand.

Soton Energy maintained their fine form under new the management team of Nick Kellaway and Rich Baddams by inflicting a 3-0 defeat on East Boldre. Braishfield had a timely 2-0 win against fellow strugglers Compton to give themselves hope of avoiding the drop.

The top two in Junior 2 were both victorious with leaders QK prospering on their travels as Ben Scarborough struck two in their 3-0 win at Chamberlayne.

■ DREW GROUP SOUTHAMPTON FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Hedge End can still pip them after defeating Wellow 4-1.

Mike Forbes netted a brace as Solent Saints edged Hamble United 3-2 and Brendan Rafai scored the only goal as Langley Manor won at Inmar.

Bricklayers shocked Riverside in Junior 3, holding them to a 1-1 draw – Mike Fielding scoring from the spot to cancel out Dan Phillips's goal for Riverside.

FC Wellington went down 5-0 at new leaders Chandlers Ford Rangers – Tom Milczarek grabbing a brace. Matt Forsee hit all three as Cricketers Eastleigh made it two wins on the bounce by edging Capital 3-2. Infinity and Gordons finished 2-2.

Two 7-0 scorelines in Junior 4 as Chandlers Ford defeated depleted Cricketers Fair Oak, including two each from Nathan James and Luke Smith. West Totton repeated the margin against local rivals New Forest with a trio of braces from Mark Cumber, John

Caldicott and Sam Wallace.

Junior 5's top clash saw Stanton come back from 3-2 down at Bitterne Park Hotel to win 4-3. Horton Heath signed off with a 6-1 win at rivals Botley Village A as Jack Hazeldine hit a four-goal salvo to take Heath back to the top. Squeaky bum time as they await others matches.

Mike Butler and Dan Evans both hit hat-tricks as Freemantle won 8-0 at Upham Reserves.

In Junior 6, New Forest Reserves are within touching distance of the title after a hard fought 2-1 win against Braishfield Reserves, courtesy of a Gary Stoner double. S & G Sports did their bit to keep the pressure on them but had to recover from 3-0 down against Ampthill Athletics before emerging 5-3 victors.

Coxford Jets needed an own goal to dispose of AFC Soton 2-1, while Sporting Wessex's Josh Merlock hit the only goal in a 1-0 defeat of Mechanics. James Kent hit two for Burridge Village in their 3-0 verdict over AFC Station.

Wilkinson strike puts Cadnam to the sword

A CROWD of nearly 200 watched Lyndhurst edge Cadnam United in the New Forest derby encounter to decide this season's Trophyman Senior League Cup.

Lyndhurst deservedly took the lead on 35 minutes. Andy Longland latched onto a through ball and, despite the best efforts of Jamie Mason in the Cadnam goal, managed to float the ball in from a tight angle after being pushed wide. Danny Gain had an opportunity to level the scores but his piledriver of a shot was somehow kept out by Simon Parker in the Lyndhurst goal.

Early in the second half Longland beat the offside trap

but lifted his shot over keeper and bar.

Lyndhurst, though, did extend their lead in superb style when Pete Hurst's free kick was met at the front post by Tony Wilkinson whose bullet header left Mason no chance.

Lyndhurst then sat back, hoping to protect their lead and see out the game, and this almost proved their undoing – Cadnam substitute Josh House reducing his team's arrears with a close-range finish.

The comeback was almost completed when Gain had a shot fumbled by Parker but the ball was booted to safety and Lyndhurst held on to raise the cup.

Wilson at the double

SENIOR DIVISIONS: Comrades now look set to take second spot in their first season back in the Premier Division after a 6-0 mauling of Forest Town, including a brace from Jamie Wilson. They have two games left to play and are level on points with Forest Town who have completed their fixtures.

Thornhill HK lost ground on the leading pair in Senior 1 as they were held 2-2 by improving BTC Reserves. Netley demolished Durley Reserves 6-0 with a superb quartet from Ricky Bull.

Cadnam thumped local rivals Hythe Aztecs 4-0 to keep on their coat tails, while Lyndhurst had a narrow 2-1 victory over Comrades Reserves.

Sam Hewitt hit a hat-trick as Burridge defeated Michelmersh & Timsbury 7-2 and White Horse were 4-1 victors over Hedge End Town.

Common safety push

VETERANS DIVISIONS: Old Tauntonians' 4-3 defeat by Colden Common consigned them to bottom of the A Division and lifted Common to within sight of safety. QK Soton were 4-1 winners against Sholing.

The race for the B Division title opened up as leaders Bishops Waltham crashed to a 5-2 defeat at Langley Tavern – Darren Clark hitting a hat-trick for the winners. Locks Heath thumped Hythe Aztecs 4-0 to rejoin the title fray, while Hedge End Rangers stunned RS Winchester 3-0 with Kev Alden scoring two. Compton ended Langley Manor's hopes with a 2-0 defeat.

The C Division title looks to be heading to Sporting BTC B, although they will have to wait just a little bit longer to be confirmed as champs.

A victory at Michelmersh & Timsbury would have ensured the title but they were held 2-2 by their in form hosts.

GE Aviation B can mathematically still catch them. They defeated Baddesley Park 5-1 with Billy Kelly and Keith Kinchington scoring a pair apiece. Winchester OB won 1-0 at Sholing B thanks to Steve Cranstone and Royal Mail posted a 1-0 win at Priory courtesy of Rob Haynes.



SHOLING VETS: Back row (from left): Mark Wilkins, Martin Chamberlain, Gary Dowd, Barry Kimber, Lee Renyard, Wayne McCormick, Dave Gibbs, Hugh Arthur, Paul Strange (manager). Front: Jason Collier, Shaun Waters (assistant manager), Sean Browne, Simon Berry, Jason Ainsworth, Jez French.

Cup showdown

THE Eastleigh RA Veterans League Cup final between Sporting BTC and Sholing takes place on Wednesday (7.30pm ko) at Follands Park.

It is the second of three cup final appearances of

the season for Sporting who will be looking to make amends for a Hampshire Cup final defeat on penalties to Colden Common.

For Sholing, it is a first appearance in a main cup.



SPORTING BTC VETS: Back row (from left): Jason Gosney, Gary White, Stephen Redshaw, Ben Goodridge, Martin Wyeth, Paul Neale, Mark Mewett, Dean Pengelley, Ken Maxwell. Front: Ryan Anderton, Paul Williams, Matt Haws, Mark Wilson (capt), Scott Winman, Kenny Haynes, Sean Winters.

DREW SMITH RESULTS AND SCORERS IN MONDAY'S ECHO

Non-league Football

CITY OF SOUTHAMPTON SUNDAY LEAGUE STANDINGS

Premier Division					
	P	W	D	L	A Pts
Knighton Arms	7	7	0	0	58 1 21
Brookhill Saints	9	7	0	2	32 14 21
Totton Town	9	5	0	4	21 29 15
Avenue	9	4	1	4	29 23 13
City Central	10	3	1	6	36 32 10
Bedes Lea 97	10	0	0	10	6 83 0

Senior Division					
	P	W	D	L	A Pts
Bursledon Towers	12	9	1	2	32 20 28
Westwood Old Boys	11	8	0	3	35 17 24
K.R.L.	11	5	1	5	26 21 16
Totton Cosmos	11	5	1	5	23 29 16
Chamberlayne Athletic	11	5	0	6	36 36 15
Sholing Celtic	12	4	1	7	30 28 13
Eastbrook Harriers	12	1	2	9	14 45 5

Division 1					
	P	W	D	L	A Pts
Riverside Magic	13	11	0	2	70 14 33
Linden Tree	13	11	0	2	68 18 33
Winston Hotel	12	10	1	1	90 19 31
Castle Inn	14	5	2	7	38 43 17
Anchor Redbridge	14	4	4	6	25 47 16
Echo	14	3	3	8	30 58 12
Hedge End Club	14	2	2	10	18 56 8
Revolution	14	1	2	11	21 105 5

Division 2					
	P	W	D	L	A Pts
F.C. Salt	15	11	2	2	46 23 35
Athletico H.C.	15	10	1	4	64 33 31
Old House at Home	17	9	4	4	62 34 31
Ice House N.H.	14	8	2	4	62 26 26
Brookhill Saints Res	9	9	0	0	49 15 24
F.C. Railway	14	6	2	6	55 36 20
Sports Mania	15	6	0	9	46 61 18
Itchen Manor	16	5	1	10	37 44 16
Carnival U.K.	16	3	0	13	21 83 9
Woodman	17	1	0	16	27 114 3

Division 3					
	P	W	D	L	A Pts
Bridge A.F.C.	12	10	1	1	56 19 31
Cherbourg	14	9	2	3	56 26 29
Chartwell Green	11	9	2	0	44 16 29
A.F.C. Bursledon	15	8	3	4	42 30 27
Sherfield English	15	8	1	6	58 31 25
AFC Riverside	14	4	3	7	31 34 15
L.H. Galaxy	16	4	3	9	22 37 15
Regents Park	15	2	2	11	24 68 8
A.F.C. Marchwood	14	0	1	13	14 86 1

Division 4					
	P	W	D	L	A Pts
Southampton Bhoyas	15	11	0	4	43 15 33
Woodmill	14	11	1	2	54 21 31
Bishops Blaze	11	7	3	1	55 16 24
Chamberlayne Ath Res	15	6	3	6	35 45 21
Newtown Athletic	10	6	1	3	35 21 19
Eastpoint	14	5	3	6	26 39 18
Royale Marine	11	3	3	5	23 27 12
Burridge AFC	13	1	0	12	14 48 3
Obelisk	13	1	0	12	16 71 3

Division 5					
	P	W	D	L	A Pts
Sporting View	14	12	1	1	65 20 37
Sporting Compass	16	11	1	4	42 26 34
Portwood United	16	9	2	5	54 41 29
Sherfield English Res	16	8	1	7	60 50 25
Durley	16	5	4	7	32 38 19
A.V. Chivas	14	5	3	6	31 44 18
Eastleigh Irish	15	4	2	9	35 80 14
H.S.C. Southern Stars	15	4	1	10	31 49 13
A.F.C. Bishopstoke	14	2	1	11	36 38 7

Division 6					
	P	W	D	L	A Pts
AFC Southampton	16	15	1	0	79 25 46
Hythe & Dibden Sunday	16	12	0	4	59 38 36
RS Ocean Village	14	11	0	3	63 25 33
Amfield	15	8	1	6	49 40 25
Botley Babes	15	5	2	8	40 62 17
Marchwood	16	4	2	10	39 55 14
Test Valley Spartans	15	3	3	9	28 56 12
Unity	15	4	0	11	34 64 12
Sporting Compass Res	16	2	1	13	31 57 7

TOWERS POWER

City of Southampton Sunday League

BURSLEDON Towers are the Senior Division title holders after a dramatic last-gasp victory over Sholing Celtic.

Towers knew a win would guarantee them the title but the pressure appeared to be getting to them as they trailed Celtic 1-0 at half-time thanks to Paul Jack's scissor kick goal.

Joe Connery equalised for Towers but it looked like the game was going to end in frustration until Lee Osborne struck with three minutes remaining to bag the win and confirm their status as champions.

There was less drama in the other two Senior Division games.

Westwood Old Boys were being held 1-1 at half-time by KRL with Craig Swain on target for the latter but they romped away in the second period to secure a 5-1 win with Sam White, Shane Collins, Jamie Roberts (2) and Breon Graham on target.

There was a similar story in the other game as Chamberlayne Athletic held Totton Cosmos 1-1 at half-time but ended up losing 5-2.

Louis Le Messieur and Brandon Williams converted for Chamberlayne but two own goals contributed to their undoing with Ashley Hewer, Marc Johnson and Joe Arnold netting the others.

In Junior Division 1, Linden Tree had to hold on to survive a spirited Riverside Magic comeback.

Linden led 4-0 at half-time through Matt Camfield (2), Alwyne Short and Lee Slade and looked on course to record a comfortable win.

However, Magic were determined to live up to their name and nearly produced a memorable game.

Vince Fyfield's brace and Matthew Coulthard brought the score back to 4-3 but they couldn't

Kneller treble keeps double hopes alive

KNIGHTON Arms are on course to win yet another cup after defeating City Central in the semi-final of the AJ Miller Trophy.

They have already bagged the Hampshire Sunday Senior Cup and could grab another honour after a 4-2 win.

Ben Kneller, pictured, was the star of the show again, firing a hat-trick to earn the victory while Shane Flocks bagged the other.

AJ Chasmore did hit a brace for City Central but they couldn't out power their free-scoring opponents.

FC Railway also have a final berth to look forward to after a 3-2 win against Chartwell Green in the semi-final of the DR Ryder Trophy.

They led 2-0 at half-time and, although Chartwell put up a spirited comeback in the second period, they couldn't turn the tables.

Daniel Hancock, Gareth Briggs and Matthew Burwell shared the goals for FC Railway with Gary Klepp and Peter Roshier netting for Chartwell.



find an equaliser to complete the turnaround.

There was little chance of Revolution making a second-half comeback against Winston Hotel as they trailed 12-0 at half-time, and duly

ended up on the wrong end of a 21-1 drubbing with an Aiden Johnson own goal their only consolation.

Matt Hedington enjoyed his day in the sun for Winston Hotel with nine of the goals, while there was a dou-

ble hat-trick for Ross Jones.

Dean Johnson (2), Aiden Johnson, this time striking at the right end, Glen Rhodes, Ali Weaver and Dean Halley divided the rest up between them.

Daily Echo

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Magic Mundays

IT WAS a case of a chip off the old block for Ice House NH as father and son combination Peter J and Peter D Munday fired them to a 7-1 win over Sports Mania.

The family double was the highlight of their City of Southampton Sunday League Junior Division 2 victory with braces from Andy Longman and Ashley Baddams and an own goal from Gary Parker cancelling out Luke Poulter's strike.

Brookhill Saints Reserves won the division's other game at a canter.

Sean Haines (3), Ashley Goodman (2), Michael Boswell, John Dinnematin, Lewis Mullins, Jody Agrella, Jake Biffin and Luke Walsh securing a 11-0 win over Woodman.

Bridge AFC bagged a 3-0 victory over AFC Bursledon in the day's only Junior Division 3 game of the week with Wayne O'Dell, Jason Kemp and Danny Longman scoring the goals.

Tommy Stringer scored four times for Woodmill as they defeated Newton Athletic 6-2 in Junior Division 4.

Matt Fitzpatrick and Jack Jewell scored Newton's other goals, with Sean Dhanda and Russell West replying.

Southampton Bhoys eased home 4-0 against Eastpoint with Aaron Looker bagging a brace and Kevin Moloney and Ben Boyce the others.

Bishops Blaize defeated Burriddle AFC

4-1 with David Kemp (2), Ben Jacobs and Paul Tanners cancelling out Sam Davies' goal.

Royale Marine edged a tight game with Obelisk 2-1 with Peter Howard and Mark Waters rendering Carl Browning's goal a mere consolation.

Sporting View won the Junior Division 5 title after a belting game Sherfield English.

Aaron Thompson was the hat-trick hero for Sporting View with Paul Wilkinson also on target but Ashley McGimpsey (2) and an own goal from Dan Holloway made it a close run thing finishing 4-3.

Eastleigh Irish defeated HSC Southern Stars 3-0 courtesy of strikes from Mitchell Smith (2) and Aiden Reed.

In Junior Division 6, the Botley Babes had Richard Morgan, Richard Sees and Sergei Bressloff to thank for a 3-2 win over Hythe & Dibden Sunday, who had led 2-1 at half-time through Jake Voller and Paul Wilkinson.

RS Ocean Village were 1-0 down at half-time to Sporting Compass Reserves' Richard Wakeley but fought back to win 6-1 with Eero Mannikko hitting a hat-trick and Akbar Shah, John Longman and Dan Sanders also scoring.

Test Valley Spartans defeated Unity 4-2 with Tom Reed (2), Tim Read and Ali Smith cancelling out strikes from Shazar Rahman and Clint Norris.

LADIES AND GIRLS FOOTBALL



CUP WIN: : Southampton Saints Ladies celebrate their cup final triumph.

Pic by Tom Campbell

SAINTS BATTLE PAST BRAVE QK

MEON VALLEY SUNDAY LEAGUE

Hird the good news ...

JAMES Hird's goal helped Waterloo Social Club to secure their place in the Dave Blunt Trophy final against Meonstoke, following a 1-0 success over Wickham Dynamos.

Meonstoke ensured their passage into the last two by edging a seven-goal thriller with Soberton United. They won 4-3, with Alan Jess (2) and Mark Darlington's goals not enough for United.

In Division One, Milton Rovers took another step towards the title with a 5-0 victory over Titchfield, Lewie Madden (2), Antony Male, George Tribble and Stuart Dolly with the finishes.

Farlington Academicals and Burridge played out a 3-3 draw, with the Dave Filtness, Ed Forrester and Luke Andrews scoring for the visitors.

In the second tier, AFC Fareham beat Milton Rovers Reserves 3-1, Alex Croker netting for Rovers.

Moving down into Division Three, Travaux are well and truly in pole position for the title after a 3-0 triumph against Fareham United. Jack Rutter, Lewis Conway and Dean Inman were all on the score sheet.

In Division Four, Hordean United moved within a point of the title with a massive 8-3 success over AFC Portchester. Dan Carter (4), Curtis-Jay Cottle, Shaun Horrell, Alan Welch and Andy Matthewson all found the net for Dean, while Curt Sanderson hit a hat-trick for Portchey.

And finally, in the Veterans League, East Lodge Vets drew 1-1 with AFC Portchester Vets, Matt Cronk on target for the latter.

SOUTHAMPTON Saints Ladies squeezed past QK Southampton 2-1 to take the honours in The Southampton Divisional FA Women's Challenge Cup final at Romsey Town FC.

On the back of a very good performance last Sunday against Chesham UTD, Saints were expecting to put on a show against lower league opposition but QK refused to be overawed by the Saints.

Saints looked the more dangerous with Krystal Whyte giving the QK left back a torrid time but lacking a finish or a pull back.

Midway through the half Saints took the lead, albeit fortunately, as Kirsty Garner's tame shot somehow found its way under Carly Burt in the QK goal.

Saints' back four seemed in control of QK's long ball tactics with Harry Pascoe and Kat Littleboy winning any aerial battle but QK were gifted a goal as some confusion between Pascoe and Haughton in the Saints' goal saw Rachel Cardy



TOP FORM: Southampton Saints Girls under-tens.

tap in after the ball had been spilled by the Saints keeper.

Midway through the second half Midge Browning got the decisive goal, tapping in a rebound after her header from Whyte's cross had come back off the bar.

Lauren Steers had a goal disallowed late on for Saints as they saw out the game in a pro-

fessional manner.

Southampton Saints' youth teams were also in action last weekend.

The under-14s came away from a tricky encounter League Cup semi-final with Mudeford Flames with a 1-0 win and a place in the final thanks to Tiffany Eley's well-struck effort just before the

break. The Southampton Saints will now play Corfe Mullen (who beat Boscombe Albion on penalties after extra time in the other semi-final) in the New Forest Girls League Cup final on Saturday April 28 at Blackfield's QEII ground.

The under-tens continued their good form with a 3-0 win on the road over Clanfield.

Youth Football

Panthers finish on a high

ROMSEY Town Panthers under-11s ended their season with a 2-0 victory at Hythe & Dibden Phoenix.

The Panthers took an early lead when Sam Hoyland released Joe Vaughan to plant a left foot shot in the bottom corner.

The Panthers almost increased their advantage when Rocky Browne just failed to turn home a Brad Stone cross.

The Panthers were rarely troubled with Jamie Kater and man-of-the-match Max Roberts outstanding in defence in front of keeper Jack Griffiths.

In the second half the Panthers doubled their lead when Troy Bound was first to react to a loose ball following a shot by Sam Fields.

Bees are buzzing

BRAISHFIELD Bees under-eights worked very hard to defeat their Shooters counterparts 8-0.

The Bees played some attractive football, made good use of possession and dominated a Shooters team who couldn't quite match the home side in any area. However, the visitors fought hard and despite going eight goals behind didn't let their heads drop once.

The Bees goalscorers were Raphael Mollinson, Sam Rowell, Matty Hill, Ethan Tanner and Henry Brown.

In the development game, Shooters kept up the hard work and edged an exciting end to end game 5-3. Matty Hill and Ethan Tanner were on target for Braishfield.

The Bees are currently looking for a goalkeeper. If you are in school Year 3 and are a budding Kelvin Davis please get in touch by emailing Jamie at ja248@hotmail.co.uk.

AFC Totton six-a-side

AFC Totton are again staging a six-a-side tournament at their Testwood Stadium home on Saturday, May 19 and Sunday, May 20. Entries are requested from under-nine through to under-14 affiliated clubs at £25 per team. For further details visit afctotton.com.



FANCY FOOTWORK: Kings' Toby Cresswell weaves through the Petersfield defence to score.
Daily Echo pictures by Matt Watson Order no: 14141699



ITCHEN College have completed a remarkable clean sweep of all six trophies in the Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges' football programme.

All three of their men's teams have now completed league and cup doubles, a feat that has never previously been achieved, and is surely unlikely to be repeated again.

Ken Emery's Third XI squad, pictured above, added the league title to their Hampshire cup success with an excellent 3-1 win in the sun at Sparsholt College this week.

The outcome of the championship was in the balance as Itchen were contesting the title with both Sparsholt and Brockenhurst.

Anything less than an Itchen win would have let in Brockenhurst – unless

Amazing Itchen

Sparsholt were able to win the game comfortably, in which case the hosts would have edged the title on goal difference.

Itchen were without the services of top scorer Josh Hawkins, and his place up front was taken by Matt Spicer, who had forced his way into contention after coming off the bench to score in the cup final a week previously.

Spicer justified his selection and looked sharp throughout, forming an impressive strike partnership alongside the skilful Brad Griffiths.

In an evenly contested opening period,

Itchen took the lead after 12 minutes when winger Coby Wilson crossed for Mike Lamb to head over the Sparsholt goalkeeper.

Itchen doubled their lead shortly before half time when another excellent delivery from Wilson was converted by a Matt Spicer glancing header.

Sparsholt replied strongly after the break, but Itchen's defence held firm until Brad Griffiths deflected shot made the game safe at 3-0.

Sparsholt scored a well-deserved consolation goal through George Plank in the final minute of an entertaining match which was a credit to college football.



WINNER: Lewis Ross.

Lew beauty! Ross stunner

BROCKENHURST are through to the British Colleges Under-18s Cup final for the second time in three seasons after a dramatic 1-0 extra-time victory over East Norfolk.

Cup winners in 2010, Brock will face Merseysiders Greenbank in the final on May 2.

Lewis Ross scored a stunning winner during the first period of extra-time, while at the opposite end Kieran Burgess, pictured right, performed heroics in the Brock goal.

"For much of the 90 minutes it was a typical semi-final, very tense and cagey, with both teams finding it difficult to produce their best football," said Graham Mills, Brockenhurst's academy manager.

"Both sides set up like for like and tried to play football in the right way; attempting to string passes together in an attempt to push forward looking to create chances to take a crucial lead."

In the opening 45 minutes East Norfolk perhaps had the edge, forcing some fine saves from man of the match Kieran Burgess.

At the other end, recent England Colleges international Adam Stride looked to be Brock's likeliest source of a goal.

"On a number of occasions, he picked the ball up wide on the right and jinked inside to test the visiting goalkeeper," Mills said.

In the second half, Brock gathered

momentum and took a foothold in the game, enjoying good spells of possession.

The visiting East Norfolk goalkeeper had to twice come off his line to prevent the on rushing Jack Lovell and Adam Stride from getting the all important first goal.

Whilst Brockenhurst became increasingly more likely to get the breakthrough, they had to keep their concentration as East Norfolk were menacing on the break.

Fortunately the Brock backline were resolute, again Kieran Burgess pulling off some remarkable reaction saves and Tony Rolls in the centre of the Brock back four putting in some heroic blocks.

With the second half slowly ebbing away

KINGS

Rowthorn treble KOs Petersfield

By Mike Vimpany

echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

SAINTS Academy prospect Ben Rowthorn notched a hat-trick as Kings' School shrugged off the effects of conceding a first-minute goal to thrash Petersfield 5-1 in the Hampshire Schools' FA Year 8 Cup final at Solent University's Test Park stadium in midweek.

It enabled Chris Marwood's talented under-13s to celebrate a back-to-back cup double, the Winchester school having thrashed Toynbee 7-0 in last season's Year 7 final.

But such an outcome looked improbable after Petersfield stormed in front with barely a minute on the clock.

Conor Langan, another youngster attached to Saints, powered down the right and cut in before coolly rounding goalkeeper Alex Arguelles to roll Petersfield ahead.

Petersfield, who had scored 21 times in their four previous cup ties, looked more than capable of adding to their tally in the initial stages.

The Spanish-born Arguelles, who has links with Atletico Madrid, showed his potential with fine saves from Petersfield pair Toby Wallace and Cam Langan, another player who frequently caught the eye.

But gradually a physically



KINGS' SCHOOL UN

stronger Kings' uni impose themselves a through a first half – produced some very ball – they equalised.

Rowthorn, with 24 credit prior to the final to Jack Jerram's pass Kent at the second att

Once they got their front midway through half there was no stop

The second goal was ity as well; Toby Cress in from the left, the Petersfield defenders

Youth Football

S' CROWNING GLORY



UNDER-13s: Hampshire Schools Football Association Year 8 Cup winners.



ON THE BALL:
Petersfield scorer
Connor Lanagan.
Order no: 14141613



HAT-TRICK HERO: Ben Rowthorn, left, takes on the Petersfield defence.
Order no: 14141652

t began to
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which had
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goals to his
latched on
to beat Jake
empt.

r noses in
the second
ping Kings'.
sheer qual-
well jinking
rowing two
a dummy

before clipping a delightful left-foot shot beyond the reach of Kent into the far corner.

It was a great shame the television cameras weren't at Test Park to record it.

There was only one winner after that - Kings' powering forward to score three more goals before the final whistle.

Rowthorn cut inside and hit a left-footed third goal just inside the Petersfield upright and then Jerram caught the goalkeeper off his line with a teasing lob for the fourth.

Rowthorn had his eyes firmly fixed on a hat-trick and duly celebrated it when, once again, his sheer power enabled him to burst through on the right before crashing home his third goal of the game.

A 5-1 scoreline probably didn't do justice to the part Petersfield played in a thoroughly entertaining final. They were in the game for two-thirds of the time, but were eventually overpowered by a stronger, talented Kings' side.

Kings' coach Chris Marwood was complimentary about the pos-

itive style of play of both finalists and complete sportsmanship and good nature throughout the final.

"The 5-1 scoreline was not a fair reflection of what was a closely contested final, where both teams had chances to take a clear lead," he said.

"I believed that after coming from a goal down in the semi final against Salesian College, the Kings' boys had the mental and physical strength to come back into the game, and I am delighted that they did as they have worked hard as a team all year.

"Sometimes scoring early can be counterproductive and thanks to two great saves from Alex, we knew going in at half time one apiece that we would come on strong in the second half.

Marwood added: "Given the heat and pitch size (much larger than we are used to), it was important the players paced themselves through the game so they could put Petersfield under pressure at the end.

"I'm certainly not keen on false praise but for the Kings' boys to go two full seasons undefeated in

what is a very strong district league and county cup is a fantastic record.

"But the boys know they went out prematurely in the ESFA national cup competition this year so the target must be to go on and reach the latter stages next season."

● Bitterne Park will face Hounsdown in the HSFA Under-15 Cup final, while Crestwood's under-16 showdown against Salesian will be at Fratton Park on Monday, May 7.

sends Brock into British Colleges Cup final

ROUTE TO THE FINAL

Round 1	.....	QMC 2	Brockenhurst 3
Round 2	.....	South Downs 1	Brockenhurst 7
Round 3	.....	Brockenhurst 5	BHASVIC 0
Round 4	.....	Brockenhurst 2	Collyer's (Horsham) 0
Round 5	.....	Brockenhurst 1	South Thames 0
Round 6	.....	Brockenhurst 3	Gower (Swansea) 0
Semi-final	.....	Brockenhurst 1	East Norfolk 0

In extra time, Brockenhurst continued to apply pressure to the East Norfolk goal and six minutes from the restart, again a Harry Cooper set piece wasn't cleared, with the ball falling to Lewis Ross pictured, who controlled the ball with his back to goal, swivelled and dispatched a well placed shot into the bottom right corner, just out of reach of the 'keeper.

East Norfolk, with nothing to lose, saw out the remainder of extra time, throwing everything they had at Brock, whose defensive display on the day was superb.

There were a few hairy moments though - East Norfolk catching Brock on the break only for their striker to be denied by a match winning double save from Kieran Burgess.

More drama was yet to come as East Norfolk had two further chances, the first from a well struck freekick, which again Kieran Burgess somehow managed to keep out, and a brave block by Tony Rolls.

Mills added: "This cup is a competition I have such an affinity with and regard it to be such an important trophy to lift.

"I managed our our cup win in 2010 and this year is my second time taking our top string of players having managed what was our second team last year.

"The group of players that we are fortunate enough to work with here are a real credit to the college.

"Their individual commitment, dedication

and desire to the group effort is what makes the team work.

"The reward for all their hard work this season is that they have a final to look forward to in early May

"It is a fitting tribute for the game to be the last for the likes of Adam Stride, Brad Hill, Nathan Saxby, Ross Hampton-Brown and Kieran Burgess, who have served the College so well.

"All the squad will enjoy the day and I am sure that they will once again give 100 per cent to lift the cup, but win or lose, I am immensely proud of each and every one of them."

Cup final opponents Greenbank boast a formidable record this season, having won all but one of their 20 league and cup ties.

and the prospect of extra time looking increasingly likely, Brad Hill collected the ball on the halfway line, and with a quick change of pace beat his man and drove in towards the visitors' 18-yard box only for the East Norfolk right back to cynically bring him down.

"The number 2 was already on a yellow card and so the referee had no option but

to dismiss the lad for a professional foul," Mills added.

With the clock ticking down Brock saw this as an opportunity to capitalise on the numerical advantage and almost grabbed the winner with the last effort of the game - a pinpoint delivery from a Harry Cooper corner, but the effort from Ross Hampton-Brown sailed just over the bar.

Swimming nostalgia picture special ... swimming



Who are these swimmers pictured in an archive Daily Echo photograph, and does any reader know the year?
Email echosport@dailyecho.co.uk Order no: 14152696



Southampton water polo, March 1973. Back (from left) Mike Maskell, Pat Riddle, Nick Chapman, Lionel Crook, Humphrey King. Front: Robin Haines, David Moore, Tom Noyce (manager), Barry Backshell, Colin Crayford. Order no: 14152705



Southampton swimmers leave for Germany, March 1967. From left – Deryk Snelling (coach), Keith Bewley, Laura Snelling, Alan Kimber, Fred Kimber (fixture secretary). Order no: 14152709



Southampton College pupils Denize Brewster, left, and Caroline Vaughan, October 1968. Order no: 14152714



City of Southampton swimmers, date unknown. Order no: 14152718



Can you help name any of the swimmers in this picture, left?
Order no: 14152723

Unknown City of Southampton swimmers, August 1975, below. Do you know who they are?
Order no: 14152744



Ray Cayless, Linda Hill and Ray Terrell with Mayor of Southampton, Elinor Pugh, 1975. Order no: 14152732



nostalgia picture special ... swimming nostalgia ...



Halo club, August 1972 (from left) – Malcolm O'Connell, Ray Street (secretary), Ray Terrell, Di Lansley, Norman Shepherd, Lynda Hill and Colin Cunningham. Order no: 14152765

Thumbs up, left, for Colin Cunningham, Malcolm O'Connell and Ray Terrell, date unknown. Order no: 14152750



Salisbury swimming club members (from left) Helen Waterhouse, Gillian Bartlett, Nicholas Beauchamp, Stephen Curtis, Paula Harding, Lesley Randles, Karen Smith, Anthony Rix. Order no: 14152776

The Cayless family, pictured right. Back (from left) Aileen and Ray. Front – Sharon, Sean and Aine. Order no: 14152768



Southampton swimming club annual meeting, December 1966 (from left) Stanley Quixley, Joan Massey, W F Rendell, M S Allenby. Order no: 14152778



Gregg School (from left) Alan Burnett, Mike Abrahams, Gary Abrahams, Ian Hughes and Richard Spencer. Order no: 14152752



Who are these youngsters, and what is the trophy? Email echosport@dailyecho.co.uk if you know. Order no: 14152783

Ennis: We must cash in on home advantage

BRITISH athletes have to make the most of being the stars of a home Olympics this summer, according to heptathlete Jessica Ennis.

As the London Games draw ever closer, the media spotlight has started to be turned up on those who will be representing Great Britain in London.

The negative consequences have already been seen, with diver Tom Daley having had to defend himself over accusations that he has taken on too many commitments away from the pool.

Ennis, though, herself one of the unofficial faces of the Games owing to her huge popularity with the public, does not see a problem with competitors enjoying their time in the sun, so long as their training still comes first.

"It's a unique situation this year," she said.

"Having a home Olympics is a great thing to have and as an athlete you have to make the most of these opportunities because they're once-in-a-lifetime.

"But, at the same time, we are athletes and first and foremost we want to win as many medals as possible and be the best we can be.

"We need to get that balance, which the athletes are getting.

"As long as you're training and not missing sessions, you can do your sponsorship requirements, but just make sure you're doing the work first."

Ennis knows a fast start is going to be vital in London.

Over the past seven months she has been dethroned as world champion and world indoor champion, losing her titles to her main rivals Tatyana Chernova and Nataliya Dobrynska.

Poor performances in the javelin and the long jump have proven to be her downfall, but she insists there is no need to overhaul her training programme in a bid to rectify the problems.

"You don't want to change too many things," she said.

"You have to work on slightly different things but you don't want to change your whole training programme. You have to believe that it's the right thing you're doing and keep doing it."

Powerade, who will be hydrating the athletes at the London 2012 Olympic Games, are giving a select group of people the chance to set their Personal Best at the London 2012 Olympic Stadium. To be in with a chance of winning this fantastic experience, people just need to tweet a photo of themselves in their best 'On Your Marks' pose to @PoweradeGB, including the hashtag #onyourmarks.



ENNIS

MASON: ALEX HOLDS THE KEY FOR TEAM GB

FORMER England hockey ace and three-time Olympian Simon Mason believes Southampton's Alex Danson should be part of a medal-winning London 2012 campaign this summer.

Mason knows all about what it takes to conquer the Olympic stage having appeared at the Games in Atlanta, Sydney and Athens before retiring in 2005.

The 38-year-old is now well placed to comment on the state of the women's squad in his role as president of the England Hockey Board and is certainly liking what he sees.

With the likes of

Danson leading the way, Mason believes the GB squad have got the perfect blend of youth and experience required to conquer the world's best.

"The success of the women's teams is absolutely fantastic at the minute," said Mason.

"To be ranked fourth in the world is great and I really think they stand a really good chance of getting on the podium.

"With the likes of the more experienced players like Kate Walsh, Helen Richardson and Crista Cullen blending with the youngsters like Lauren Thomas it's great.

"To be on the podium has always been the goal for them and I think they are definitely capable of achieving it.

"To get to the medal matches they are definitely going to



ALEX DANSON: Could be key for GB at the Olympics.

have to produce some special performances because there are some great teams in women's hockey at the moment.

"The strength of world hockey now compared to when I used to play is a big difference.

"Back then there were seven or eight teams who were far and away the best teams whereas now there is a top 20 where anyone can beat anyone so it will be hard.

"But I am confident from the way they have been playing that they can be right up there."

The results are certainly compelling. Earlier this year Danson and Co claimed their best-ever global international result with silver at the Champions Trophy in Rosario.

And that gong, coming just under six months before the start of the Games in London, has left Mason convinced the GB girls are hitting their peak at the perfect possible time.

"The women's team are certainly in form at the moment which is fantastic news for them and for the London 2012 Olympics," he added.

"Getting on the podium is not something they are hoping for, it's something they are preparing for."

Simon Mason was speaking at the London North leg of the 'nearest & dearest' roadshow in partnership with P&G – supporting family and friends of all Team GB and ParalympicsGB athletes in the lead up to London 2012. Visit www.pgproudsponsorsforfamilies.co.uk for more information.

Prize time for Romsey HC youngsters



CAPTION: SS SS

ROMSEY hockey club have handed out their junior awards – pictured left – for 2011/12.

Player of the Season

U8 James Fuller
U10 Matthew Loveday
U12 girls Anna Poller
U12 boys Ben Davidson
U14 girls Georgia Appleby
U14 boys Callum Darch
U16 girls Charlotte Towell
U16 boys Lucas Cross

Most Improved Player

U8 Helena Ward
U10 Sophie Lawson
U12 girls Sheila Forbes
U12 boys Tom Flood
U14 girls Leila Shaw
U14 boys Nick Buck
U16 girls Selina Cox
U16 boys Alex Stote

RHC Junior Club Achievement:

Charlotte Towell
Bonham Cup, Most Improved Junior: Callum Darch

Greenleaf leads home a bumper Eastleigh 10k field

WINCHESTER's Andy Greenleaf, below, won the B&Q Eastleigh 10k in a personal best time.

The 28th annual event saw more than 2,050 runners take part, despite competition from the Sport Relief Mile.

Only a few failed to complete a good, flat course that started in Passfield Avenue and finished at Fleming Park's cycle track.

The humble beginnings of

this now major road race hark back to 1984 when a mere 350 runners made the outing. These days it is followed by the biggest junior fun run in the area, with about 600 youngsters running two kilometres around the Fleming Park playing fields.

The

women's race was won by Ava Hutchinson (Cardiff AC, below left).

She held on to win in 34 mins 9 secs from one-time Southampton runner Amy Campbell (now Shaftesbury Barnet), who finished in 34 mins 29 secs.

There was a close third for Emma Macready from Midhurst Milers (34 mins 30 secs) in her first ever outing over the distance!



FIRST LADY: Ava Hutchinson



SPRINT FINISH: Second male Matt Durniford, right, and third placed Tommy Davies.



CAPTION: Second girl home, Amy Campbell, left, and third placed Emma Macready.



THERE was a family reunion at the Eastleigh 10k.

Andrea Vear and her brothers Ian and Martin Gray used to live at Boyatt Wood, Eastleigh, and attended Crestwood school.

Andrea, who was one of the pupils

when the school first opened, now lives in York with husband Craig and sons William (4) and Max (2).

Ian lives at Redhill with wife Hannah while Martin remains an Eastleigh resident with wife Elaine and sons Bradley (7) and Oliver (4).

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



LEADING RUN SCORERS LV= COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP 2011

- 1) M.E Trescothick (Somerset) 1,673 @ 79.66
- 2) Z. De Bruyn (Surrey) 1,383 @ 55.32
- 3) M.W Goodwin (Sussex) 1,372 @ 52.76
- 4) D.M Berkenstein (Durham) 1,353 @ 61.50
- 5) C.J.L Rogers (Middlesex) 1,286 @ 58.45
- 6) E.L Joyce (Sussex) 1,269 @ 45.32
- 7) V Chopra (Warwickshire) 1,178 @ 45.30
- 8) V.S Solanki (Worcestershire) 1,148 @ 42.51
- 9) C.G Taylor (Gloucestershire) 1,139 @ 40.67
- 10) W.J Durston (Derbyshire) 1,138 @ 40.64

LEADING WICKET TAKERS

- 1) D.D Masters (Essex) 93 @ 18.13
- 2) T.J Murtagh (Middlesex) 80 @ 20.98
- 3) T.E Linley (Surrey) 73 @ 18.34
- 4) A Richardson (Worcestershire) 73 @ 24.42
- 5) C Vaas (Northamptonshire) 70 @ 21.44
- 6) M.S Panesar (Sussex) 69 @ 27.24
- 7) A.R Adams (Nottinghamshire) 67 @ 22.61
- 8) J Lewis (Gloucestershire) 65 @ 23.40
- 9) R.J Sidebottom (Yorkshire) 62 @ 22.00
- 10) G Keedy (Lancashire) 61 @ 23.63

CLYDESDALE BANK 40 STATS 2011 BATTING

- 1) C.D Nash (Sussex) 649 @ 72.11
- 2) J.J Roy (Surrey) 585 @ 45.00
- 3) E.C Joyce (Sussex) 583 @ 53.00
- 4) G.P Rees (Glamorgan) 567 @ 56.70
- 5) A.N Peterson (Glamorgan) 547 @ 54.70
- 6) M van Jaarsveld (Kent) 538 @ 44.83
- 7) P.R Stirling (Middlesex) 535 @ 53.50
- 8) D.J Malan (Middlesex) 510 @ 42.50
- 9) S.J Croft (Lancashire) 494 @ 44.90
- 10) W.J Durston (Derbyshire) 491 @ 40.91
- 11) J.J Cobb (Leicestershire) 485 @ 53.88
- 12) T.L Maynard (Surrey) 481 @ 40.08
- 13) W.L Madsen (Derbyshire) 478 @ 43.45
- 14) M.M Ali (Worcester) 476 @ 43.27
- 15) J.M Vince (Hampshire) 473 @ 39.41

BOWLING

- 1) J.W Dernbach (Surrey) 23 @ 14.08
- 2) S.M Mott (Netherlands) 21 @ 15.95
- 3) A.U Rashid (Yorkshire) 21 @ 20.33
- 4) M.E Claydon (Durham) 21 @ 21.28
- 5) S.P Kirby (Somerset) 20 @ 16.05
- 6) C.J Liddle (Sussex) 20 @ 17.20
- 7) M Bukhari (Netherlands) 19 @ 20.63
- 8) A. J Hall (Ireland) 19 @ 22.73
- 9) Y Arafat (Surrey) 19 @ 24.21
- 10) C.P Wood (Hampshire) 18 @ 19.94
- 11) M.H Yardy (Sussex) 18 @ 24.00
- 12) A Mahmood (Kent) 18 @ 24.27
- 13) P.J Franks (Nottinghamshire) 17 @ 17.64
- 14) R.S Bopara (Essex) 17 @ 17.82
- 15) T.J Phillips (Essex) 17 @ 22.35

T20 STATS 2011 - BATTING

- 1) A.B McDonald (Leicestershire) 584 @ 53.09
- 2) A.D Hales (Nottinghamshire) 544 @ 34.00
- 3) S.C Moore (Lancashire) 522 @ 34.80
- 4) M.E Trescothick (Somerset) 507 @ 39.00
- 5) A Mahmood (Kent) 485 @ 40.41
- 6) A.C Vogues (Nottingham) 484 @ 30.25
- 7) M.J Guptill (Derbyshire) 476 @ 34.00
- 8) J.M Vince (Hampshire) 445 @ 34.23
- 9) W.T.S Porterfield (Warwickshire) 437 @ 31.21
- 10) A.N Petersen (Glamorgan) 423 @ 32.53
- 11) A.W Gale (Yorkshire) 418 @ 32.15
- 12) T.C Smith (Lancashire) 413 @ 31.76
- 13) N.D McKenzie (Hampshire) 408 @ 37.09
- 14) M.H Wessels (Ireland) 392 @ 24.5
- 15) T.L Maynard (Surrey) 392 @ 43.55

BOWLING

- 1) T.J Phillips (Essex) 26 @ 13.23
- 2) D.R Briggs (Hampshire) 23 @ 14.91
- 3) H.F Gurney (Leicestershire) 23 @ 15.39
- 4) D.J Pattinson (Nottinghamshire) 23 @ 17.39
- 5) T.G Southee (Essex) 22 @ 18.95
- 6) A.D Mascarenhas (Hampshire) 21 @ 16.23
- 7) C.J Liddle (Sussex) 21 @ 17.19
- 8) R.M Pyrah (Yorkshire) 21 @ 19.85
- 9) G Keedy (Lancashire) 20 @ 17.10
- 10) W Riaz (Kent) 20 @ 19.85
- 11) S Al Hasan (Worcestershire) 19 @ 16.57
- 12) G.M Andrews (Worcestershire) 19 @ 18.05
- 13) D.P Nannes (Surrey) 19 @ 20.05
- 14) L. Gregory (Somerset) 18 @ 17.00
- 15) S. A Piolet (Warwickshire) 18 @ 19.83

COUNTY cricket begins a new season next week, beset as ever by the perennial questions about its viability.

Yet even while straitened economic circumstances turn a cruel attention on this most vulnerable of sporting institutions, it is hard to fathom what more the cricketers themselves could do to effect any improvement on the 2011 product, writes **DAVID CLOUGH**.

Lancashire's emotionally-charged and painfully overdue last-ditch championship victory was pure theatre down in Taunton, a taut drama which rightly supplanted the pre-match mutterings for England's final fixture of the summer – not to mention the latest confection of enforced football fanaticism – on each and every back page.

Glen Chapple and Peter Moores' all-for-one collective efforts culminated appropriately in a title-clinching scorecard which featured an unbroken list of 15 double-figure contributions on the way to an eight-wicket win to sneak the silverware from under Warwickshire's noses.

So many required elements – Red Rose redemption, triumph in adversity, to mention just a couple – ensured an abundantly satisfying outcome, whatever your partisan preferences.

It is not as if, either, the twists and



BOYCOTT

turns of 2011 were any exception in modern times.

From the end of Yorkshire's 33-year wait to add to their already unrivalled title haul back in 2001, on to and beyond Sussex's maiden success – under coach Moores – after more than a century of previous failure, the championship has consistently delivered in the new millennium.

Many contend it continues to do so despite, not because of, the efforts of English cricket's administrators – all the more so in an unforgiving financial climate which, it is reckoned, will soon threaten the futures of a clutch of clubs long considered part of their sport's fabric.

Those tales of woe may yet prove premature rather than prescient.

But it is a fact of life for county cricket that – irrespective of the attempts at reinvention contained in the Morgan Report or in the edicts springing up at Old Trafford, Edgbaston et al – times are agonis-

Another roller

Only a fast start will do for Buttler

WICKETKEEPER-batsman Jos Buttler has urged Somerset to make a strong start to ensure they do not endure another year of being nearly men.

Having finished runners-up in every competition in 2010, the county would have emulated the feat last season had they not finished fourth in Division One of the LV= County Championship, as they once again fell at the final hurdle in both the Clydesdale Bank 40 and Friends Life t20.

To add insult to injury, in 2010, they missed out on the championship title as Nottinghamshire emerged triumphant on the final day of the season.

In the wake of that devastation, Somerset were once again among the favourites to win county cricket's biggest prize last year.

However, a disastrous start – they suffered innings defeats in their first two four-day encounters – meant they were playing catch-up from the off – something Buttler is desperate not to see repeated.

"There is a hell of a lot of cricket played in the early part of the season with the way the fixtures are, so you cannot afford to not be in top gear right from the start," he said.

"That is something we have got to make sure we do.

"Hopefully the weather stays alright so we can be in a great position to start the season well."

The aim for Somerset this season will undoubtedly be to find a way to become the proverbial brides instead of bridesmaids.

It is a challenge Buttler, right, believes they are up to, insisting he and his team-mates can take heart from the fact they are always there or thereabouts.

"We have got to keep getting to those positions because you cannot win if you're not in the finals – it is a huge positive that we are getting there," he added. Now we have got to just work on finishing it off and playing our best cricket in the final, which is something obviously everybody is keen to do."

As for his own development, Buttler spent the winter first enjoying highly successful tours of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka with England Lions before being involved with the senior side on the limited-overs legs against Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates, as was Hampshire's Danny Briggs.

His inclusion was recognition for the fine start the 21-year-old has made in the professional game; he averages just short of 70 in List A cricket having played 40 matches.

Buttler, though, is not resting on his laurels and is targeting an improvement in the championship as he continues to pursue the ultimate dream of playing Test cricket.

He admitted: "I hope to improve my first-class record – I want to score runs in all forms of cricket. So far, I have had a lot more success in one-day cricket, but I believe I have got a technique that can work in first-class cricket as well."



NO MORE SECOND BEST:
Somerset skipper Marcus
Trescothick.



It is a fact of life for
county cricket that times
are agonisingly unsure

enthralling summer.

You do not need rose-tinted specs to envisage the next tortuous battle for supremacy in the premier competition.

It is debatable perhaps whether the Lancashire model of whole so much greater than sum of parts can be expected to suffice again – even with a plethora of fixtures once more scheduled on Liverpool's fair, result pitch.

Chapple and Co will hardly fail for lack of effort. There are, however, several other contenders at least as likely.

Can Somerset perhaps, the conspicuous last-fence fallers of 2011, snap that wretched habit – not just in four-day cricket but in the two shorter formats as well?

The early-season recruitment of South Africa revelation Vernon Philander is a statement of intent, as is the presence of Chris Gayle and Albie Morkel for the Twenty20 campaign.

Should it all come right at last under the captaincy of Marcus Trescothick, there will be empathetic smiles and tears all round and far away too from Taunton.

If there is any justice, you might

HAMPSHIRE & IOW SPORTS AWARDS - SEE PAGES 44/45

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

coaster ride...

HOW THEY FINISHED DIVISION 1 2011

	P	W	L	D	BT	BW	Pts
*Lancashire	16	10	4	2	37	44	246
+Warwickshire	16	9	4	3	46	45	235
Durham	16	8	4	4	47	45	232
Somerset	16	6	7	3	45	39	189
Sussex	16	6	6	4	34	40	182
Notts	16	5	6	5	35	43	173
Worcs	16	4	11	1	31	44	142
=Yorkshire	16	3	6	7	34	37	138
**Hampshire	16	3	6	7	30	36	127

* 1 pt deducted for slow over rate
 +8 pts deducted for sub-standard pitch, plus 1 deducted for slow over rate
 = 2 pts deducted for slow over rate
 ** 8 pts deducted for sub-standard pitch.

DIVISION 2 2011

	P	W	L	D	BT	BW	Pts
Middlesex	16	8	2	6	50	44	240
Surrey	16	8	4	4	43	4	227
Northants	16	7	2	7	48	45	226
*Gloucs	16	6	5	5	41	47	198
Derbyshire	16	5	6	5	42	44	181
=Glamorgan	16	5	6	5	44	40	178
+Essex	16	4	4	8	29	44	159
**Kent	16	5	9	2	30	42	149
Leicestershire	16	1	11	4	24	36	88

and will get an early shot at revenge against Lancashire at Aigburth next month.

Of the remainder, Middlesex must have done plenty right to earn their elevation as Division Two champions, and habitual challengers Nottinghamshire have recruited notably in the shape of James Taylor from Leicestershire and Hampshire's Twenty20 specialist Michael Lumb.

Down in the second tier, Yorkshire – fresh from the election of Geoffrey Boycott as their new president – will have much to prove

Clubs' overseas registrations have a pragmatic look, mundane even by previous years

after hapless relegation, alongside Hampshire.

The same sentiments, for different reasons, apply to Northamptonshire thanks to their 'Somerset-esque' disappointments last summer.

It is indicative perhaps of those apparently unending financial constraints that most clubs' 2012 overseas registrations have a pragmatic look, mundane even by previous comparison.

But Herschelle Gibbs' Twenty20 campaign with Durham is an enticing prospect – as is the presence of his fellow South African Alvaro Petersen to try to re-establish some much-needed calm at Essex.

Among domestic signings, Charlie Shreck's Kent career and, from the same vintage, Simon Jones' prodigal return to Glamorgan – permanent, after last season's loan from Hampshire – are of particular interest.

A summer of resolution awaits them and many others.

In the bigger picture, those vexed questions will doubtless persist about the very existence of the county game.

But in the spring sunshine, the annual uncertainty is always more glorious than perilous.

Ajmal keen to have a fresh start

AJMAL Shahzad has more reason than most, even amid Yorkshire's collective 2011 disappointment, to put a largely regrettable year behind him.

The pace-bowling all-rounder kept going through the pain of an ankle injury, which eventually required surgery, for 10 county championship matches – to depressingly little effect.

As Yorkshire faltered to relegation from LV= Division One, along with Hampshire, Shahzad dropped ever further out of the reckoning to add to his one Test and 11 one-day international caps for England.

A paltry 25 wickets at an alarming 41 runs each resulted in the knowledge too that he was one of the targets of public displeasure voiced at the end of a sorry campaign by Yorkshire chairman Colin Graves.

Throw in an ignominious rebuke and fine for his scuffling of the pitch while batting at Edgbaston – an uncharacteristic and "stupid act", he concedes himself – not to mention that October date with the surgeon's knife after all, and it is hard to imagine how 2011 could have gone much worse.

But Shahzad is an optimist – and as a new season dawns, under revamped Yorkshire management with Jason Gillespie first-team coach and Martyn Moxon director of cricket, he sees good reason to be hoping for the best again.

"There were some harsh words spoken," he said, of the blunt language in Graves' end of term report.

"But the stats are there for everybody to see. A few players didn't have the best of seasons."

Shahzad insists that his painful left ankle was significant mitigation for his struggles.

"I've got my reasons for why it was so tough personally."

"Everyone knew that was the case with my ankle. If they didn't think I was fit to play then I shouldn't be on the pitch. But obviously people thought I was, and I kept playing."

He added: "There were a few people, including myself, who did get a nudge and a little bit of a shock at the end of last season by a few words that were spoken by the owner of the club."

"You're not going to really take that on board; we've just got to crack on with what we do."

"We try our best every time we get on the pitch. There's not a point when we get on the pitch and think 'Oh, today's not the day for us'."

"This is my job. I'm a fast bowler, who bats – and I go on to that pitch every day trying to take wickets and bowl as quick as I possibly can, and bowl well."

"People have their opinions and views, which I don't really take to heart."

"I'm at the end of a three year contract with Yorkshire. My personal ambition is to do well this season, and hope to get another contract offer – and put some hard graft in."

"We're all looking forward to a very strong season."

So speak all cricketers, of course, at the start of every summer.

SHAHZAD

be tempted to conclude, it is long past time Somerset stopped playing the stooges and stepped up to centre stage.

But as Trescothick himself so candidly acknowledged last September, after Somerset's almost tragi-comic near-misses – including in both limited-overs showpiece finals, at Edgbaston and Lord's – they must look critically at themselves to work out why so much good work keeps coming to nothing.

It is an attitude which deserves to be rewarded, and may well be.

But it will not be easy.

Resurgent Surrey, promoted in the championship and Somerset's CB40 conquerors at Lord's, are sure to make their presence felt under the charismatic partnership of Chris Adams and captain Rory Hamilton-Brown.

It would be foolish too to overlook the credentials, and motivation, of a Warwickshire team who came so close last year

PRODIGAL SON BACK HOME: Simon Jones has left Hampshire to return to Glamorgan permanently.

YOUTH RUGBY - SEE PAGES 42/43

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



Lancs can do it again

LANCASHIRE'S LV=County Championship victory last season was a surprise – not just due to the 77-year wait, but the make-up of their team.

While the triumph was a feather in the cap for long-serving veterans such as captain Glen Chapple, his predecessor Mark Chilton and spinner Gary Keedy, it also owed much to a crop of unsung homegrown players of whom such heroics were not expected.

And it is the latter group who must step up if the success is to be repeated.

While Chilton has retired, Chapple will drag his patched-up body through another campaign in company with Keedy, whose close-season "work experience" at Royal Blackburn Hospital gives an indication of the 37-year-old's planning for a future in physiotherapy once his playing days are over.

And that will give left-amer Simon Kerrigan the chance to lead the Red Rose's rising stars in the coming years.

This season will continue the extended handover of the baton between Keedy and his natural successor, 15 years his junior, and should see Kerrigan build on his four appearances in last season's triumphant first-class campaign.

He was a hugely impressive performer in his limited time on the field, taking 24 wickets including a match-winning nine for 51 against Hampshire in September to keep his side's title push on track.

KERRIGAN

They were the best figures by a Lancashire bowler since 1953 and, added to an early-season destruction of the Warwickshire order with five for seven, helped mark him out as an undoubted star of the future.

His response to a pre-season question regarding his historic 'nine-fer' is another indication.

"I've tried to put it to the back of my mind because we want to look forward," he said.

"It's always good to have in the memory bank for when you're getting panned around. You think 'there's always a chance I can pull off something special here'."

He added of the county's ambitions: "We'll never forget winning the Championship, but we want to be known for more than one title. We want to be known as the team who kept on winning."

He has impressed on the pre-season tour of the United Arab Emirates, as he and Keedy took two wickets apiece in the Emirates Airline Twenty20 Cup semi-final and Kerrigan then took eight wickets in the curtain-raiser between the champion county and an MCC XI, including the prize scalp of Mark Ramprakash with his third ball.

That performance may have helped change the mind of self-confessed "traditionalist" Kerrigan after he questioned the suitability of the pink ball for the first-class game.

The runners and riders

Derbyshire

LV=CC: Division Two; CB40: Group C; FLt20: North Group



Captain: Wayne Madsen
Head coach: Karl Krikken
Overseas: Martin Gupthill (New Zealand, first half of season), Usman Khawaja (Australia, second half of season), Rana Naved-ul-Hasan (Pakistan, for t20)
Ins: David Wainwright (Yorkshire)
Outs: Steffan Jones, Luke Sutton (both retired), Greg Smith (Essex)
Last season: Fifth, LV=CCD2
Prospects: Not among the fancied teams but their batting line-up looks solid and their overseas players are astutely signed. Could prove difficult to beat without threatening any titles.
Odds to win their Championship division (various bookmakers): 14/1

Durham

LV=CC: Division One; CB40: Group B; FLt20: North Group



Captain: Phil Mustard
Head coach: Geoff Cook
Overseas: Herschelle Gibbs (South Africa, for t20)
Ins: n/a
Outs: Kyle Coetzer (Northamptonshire), Ben Harmison, Mark Davies (both Kent)
Last season: Third, LV=CCD1
Prospects: With a good blend of youth and experience in all facets of the game, Durham are justifiably and widely regarded as favourites for the Championship crown.
Odds: 4/1

Essex

LV=CC: Division Two; CB40: Group A; FLt20: South Group



Captain: James Foster
Head coach: Paul Grayson
Overseas: Alviro Petersen (South Africa, first half of season), Peter Siddie (Australia, for t20)
Ins: Greg Smith (Derbyshire), Charl Willoughby (Somerset)
Outs: Chris Wright (Warwickshire), Max Osborne (released)
Last season: Seventh, LV=CCD2
Prospects: With an excellent seam attack, Essex should challenge for promotion but they do lack a proven spinner and their explosive one-day batsmen have been inconsistent in the longer form.
Odds: 5/1

Glamorgan

LV=CC: Division Two; CB40: Group B; FLt20: Midlands/Wales/West Group



Captain: Mark Wallace
Coach: Matthew Mott
Overseas: Moises Henriques (Australia, opening weeks of season), Marcus North (Australia, from late April/early May)
Ins: Simon Jones (Hampshire), Michael Hogan (Western Australia, on UK passport)
Outs: Mike Powell (Kent), Adam Shantry, David Brown (both retired)
Last season: Sixth, LV=CCD2
Prospects: The transition continues in south Wales but the captaincy of Wallace could be galvanising and, with several promising youngsters, Glamorgan could push on from mid-table.
Odds: 8/1

Gloucestershire

LV=CC: Division Two; CB40: Group A; FLt20: Midlands/Wales/West Group



Captain: Alex Gidman
Director of cricket: John Bracewell
Overseas: Muttiah Muralitharan (Sri Lanka, for t20)
Ins: Dan Housego (Middlesex)
Outs: Jon Lewis (Surrey), Vikram Banerjee, Chris Taylor (both released)
Last season: Fourth, LV=CCD2
Prospects: It has been a difficult winter off the field for Gloucestershire and the squad is looking lightweight. Much will depend on senior men such as Gidman and Hamish Marshall.
Odds: 9/1

Hampshire

LV=CC: Division Two; CB40: Group B; FLt20: South Group



Captain: Jimmy Adams
Team manager: Giles White
Overseas: Simon Katich (Australia), Shahid Afridi (Pakistan, for t20)
Ins: n/a
Outs: Michael Lumb (Nottinghamshire), Simon Jones (Glamorgan), Dominic Cork (retired), Nic Pothas, Friedel de Wet, Johann Myburgh, Jamie Miller, Benny Howell, Tim Ravenscroft (all released)
Last season: Ninth, LV=CCD1
Prospects: After the shock of being relegated with a strong squad, Hampshire will be expected to bounce straight back. Experienced batsmen who failed to deliver in abundance last term will be confident against Second Division attacks.
Odds: 10/3

Kent

LV=CC: Division Two; CB40: Group C; FLt20: South Group



Captain: Rob Key
Head coach: Jimmy Adams
Overseas: Brendan Nash (West Indies)
Ins: Charlie Shreck (Nottinghamshire), Mike Powell (Glamorgan), Ben Harmison, Mark Davies (both Durham), Scott Newman (Middlesex, loan)
Outs: Joe Denly (Middlesex), Robbie Joseph (Leicestershire), Martin van Jaarsveld, James Goodman (both retired)
Last season: Eighth, LV=CCD2
Prospects: Will hope for an injection of enthusiasm from the arrival of a new coach and some experienced players. With the likes of Key, Azhar Mahmood and James Tredwell around, they will expect an upturn in fortunes.
Odds: 10/1

Lancashire

LV=CC: Division One; CB40: Group A; FLt20: North Group



Captain: Glen Chapple
Head coach: Peter Moores
Overseas: Ashwell Prince (South Africa, for LV=CC & CB40)
Ins: Nagaash Tahir (Warwickshire)
Outs: Mark Chilton (retired), Steven Cheetham (released)
Last season: First, LV=CCD1
Prospects: After defying the odds and history to win the title after a 77-year wait, the task for Lancashire's largely homegrown squad is now to prove they were fulfilling potential rather than punching above their weight.
Odds: 9/2

Leicestershire

LV=CC: Division Two; CB40: Group A; FLt20: North Group



Captain: Matthew Hoggard
Head coach: Phil Whitticase
Overseas: Ramnaresh Sarwan (West Indies), Abdul Razzaq (Pakistan, for t20)
Ins: Robbie Joseph (Kent)
Outs: Harry Gurney, James Taylor (both Nottinghamshire), Paul Nixon (retired), Tom New (released)
Last season: Ninth, LV=CCD2 (also FLt20 winners)
Prospects: The Foxes appear trapped in Division Two and the loss of Taylor, one of the brightest prospects in the English game, does little to breed confidence. Despite that, they still know how to win in the shortest format.
Odds: 16/1

GOT A CRICKET STORY FOR US? EMAIL echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

for the LV Championship

Middlesex

LV=CC: Division One; CB40: Group A; FLt20: South Group

Captain: Neil Dexter
Head coach: Richard Scott
Overseas: Chris Rogers (Australia)

Ins: Joe Denly (Kent), Ollie Rayner (Sussex)
Outs: Ben Scott (Worcestershire), Dan Housego (Gloucestershire), Jamie Dalrymple (released), Scott Newman (Kent, loan)

Last season: First, LV=CCD1

Prospects: With some promising youngsters and consistency in the likes of Rogers and Corey Collymore, Middlesex will hope to maintain momentum from last season's promotion but it remains to be seen if the step up is too much.
Odds: 12/1



Northants

LV=CC: Division Two; CB40: Group C; FLt20: Midlands/Wales/West Group

Captain: Andrew Hall
Head coach: David Capel
Overseas: Chaminda Vaas (Sri Lanka)

Ins: Kyle Coetzer (Durham), Con de Lange (Blackpool, on British passport)

Outs: David Lucas (Worcestershire), Mal Loye (retired), Tom Brett, Gavin Baker (both released)
Last season: Third, LV=CCD2

Prospects: With a dependable batting order, Northants should push at the top end but the bowling looks too reliant on Vaas for it become a sustained challenge.
Odds: 8/1



Nottinghamshire

LV=CC: Division One; CB40: Group B; FLt20: North Group

Captain: Chris Read
Director of cricket: Mick Newell
Overseas: Adam Voges (Australia, from late May)

Ins: Michael Lumb (Hampshire), Harry Gurney, James Taylor (both Leicestershire), Karl Turner (trialist)

Outs: Charlie Shreck (Kent), Mark Wagh, Ali Brown (both retired), Akhil Patel (released)

Last season: Sixth, LV=CCD1

Prospects: Notts disappointed last season despite looking strong on paper at the start of the year. They will hope the arrivals of Lumb and Taylor will add much-needed strength to their batting.
Odds: 6/1



Somerset

LV=CC: Division One; CB40: Group B; FLt20: Midlands/Wales/West

Captain: Marcus Trescothick
Head coach: Andy Hurry
Overseas: Vernon Philander (South Africa, for early part of season), Chris Gayle (West Indies, for t20), Albie Morkel (South Africa, for t20)

Ins: n/a
Outs: Charl Willoughby (Essex), Murali Kartik (Surrey)

Last season: Fourth, LV=CCD1 (also CB40 & FLt20 runners-up)

Prospects: Should prove a formidable one-day force and a strong contender for the Championship once again. Their batting is their undoubted strength - but opponents also like batting at Taunton and they must find a way to take regular wickets.
Odds: 5/1



Surrey

LV=CC: Division One; CB40: Group B; FLt20: South Group

Captain: Rory Hamilton-Brown
Cricket manager: Chris Adams

Overseas: Jacques Rudolph (South Africa, for early part of season), Murali Kartik (India, from late May), Dirk Nannes (Australia, for t20)

Ins: Jon Lewis (Gloucestershire), Murali Kartik (Somerset), Jacques Rudolph (Yorkshire)

Outs: Michael Brown (retired), Chris Schofield, Simon King (both released)

Last season: Second, LV=CCD2 (also CB40 winners)
Prospects: Confidence will be high after promotion and there is no doubt Surrey have the quality and experience to challenge. Despite that, there is still some reliance on Mark Ramprakash, now 42, to score runs.
Odds: 7/1



Sussex

LV=CC: Division One; CB40: Group C; FLt20: South Group

Captain: Mike Yardy
Head coach: Mark Robinson
Overseas: Scott Styris (New Zealand, for t20)

Ins: n/a

Outs: Ollie Rayner (Middlesex), Lou Vincent (released)

Last season: Fifth, LV=CCD1

Prospects: With a core of players remaining from their last Championship title in 2007, Sussex are still a solid side. Their bowling attack, however, appears to lack the depth of their rivals and a strong challenge might be unlikely.
Odds: 9/1



Warwickshire

LV=CC: Division One; CB40: Group C; FLt20: Midlands/Wales/West Group

Captain: Jim Troughton
Director of cricket: Ashley Giles
Overseas: Jeetan Patel (New Zealand)

Ins: Chris Wright (Essex)

Outs: Nagaash Tahir (Lancashire), Ant Botha (retired), Maurice Holmes (released)

Last season: Second, LV=CCD1

Prospects: New recruits have been minimal but Warwickshire showed signs last year they are developing into a strong team. They will look to build on that but their star man, Chris Woakes, could easily be whisked away by England.
Odds: 6/1



Worcestershire

LV=CC: Division One; CB40: Group A; FLt20: Midlands/Wales/West Group

Captain: Vikram Solanki
Director of cricket: Steve Rhodes
Overseas: Michael Klinger (Australia, for early part of season), Phil Hughes (Australia, from late May), Saeed Aijmal (Pakistan, for t20)

Ins: Ben Scott (Middlesex), David Lucas (Northamptonshire)

Outs: Matt Mason (retired), Chris Whelan, David Wheeldon (both released)

Last season: Seventh, LV=CCD1

Prospects: Proved most pundits wrong last season by escaping relegation - but most are still tipping them for the drop again. Team spirit is obviously strong but they still seem to lack the substance for the top division.
Odds: 50/1



Yorkshire

LV=CC: Division Two; CB40: Group C; FLt20: North Group

Captain: Andrew Gale
Head coach: Jason Gillespie
Overseas: tbc

Ins: Phil Jaques (New South Wales, on UK passport)

Outs: David Wainwright (Derbyshire), Jacques Rudolph (Surrey), Ben Sanderson, Lee Hodgson (both released)

Last season: Eighth, LV=CCD1

Prospects: The inquest into why Yorkshire are in the second tier is probably still going on, but once the action starts they should prove strong enough to win the division. They have international quality in all departments.
Odds: 7/2



Northants snap up Cameron

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE have signed former Australia Twenty20 captain Cameron White for this season's Friends Life t20.

The big-hitting 28-year-old, pictured above, is expected to be available for the entire tournament after losing his place in Australia's limited overs teams.

White was replaced as Australia Twenty20 skipper in January after a poor run of form, highlighted by his average of just 7.85 during the Big Bash League in the winter.

White has, however, enjoyed rich success in England's Twenty20 tournament, smashing an unbeaten 141 - the fourth highest T20 score of all-time - while with Somerset in 2006.

"This is an important signing for Northants Cricket's Friends Life t20 campaign, where Cameron will be able to add huge amounts of firepower to our middle order batting," head coach David Capel said.

"Cameron comes to the County Ground with a proven track record, both internationally and domestically in the shorter forms of the game and he has the ability to find the boundaries, as seen by the fact he has scored t20 centuries."

Lancs get past MCC

PAUL Horton's fine half-century saw Lancashire ease to a six-wicket victory over the MCC in the Champion County match in Abu Dhabi.

Despite a shaky start in which they were reduced to 11 for two, Lancashire struck back and Horton's 98-run partnership with Luke Proctor helped them reach their target of 152.

MCC had resumed their second innings on an overnight total of 81 for eight but added just three runs to that total, with Simon Kerrigan finishing with match figures of eight wickets for 96 runs.

Ian Blackwell and Lewis Gregory both struck in the first over to give the MCC hope but the patient batting of Horton and Proctor made a Lancashire win inevitable.

Horton finally went for 58 and Proctor for 47 before Steven Croft hit 24 in 26 balls to see Lancashire home with plenty to spare.



COMING SOON - LOCAL LEAGUE CRICKET WITH MIKE VIMPANY

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

All set for a

HAMPSHIRE FIXTURES 2012

APRIL

- 12-15 Gloucestershire, home, LVCC
19-22 Glamorgan, SWALEC, LVCC
26-29 Leicestershire, h, LVCC

MAY

- 2-5 Northants, Northampton, LVCC
7 Glamorgan, h, CB40
9-12 Derbyshire, h, LVCC
16-19 Yorkshire, Headingley, LVCC
20 Scotland, Uddingston, CB40

- 23-26 Glamorgan, h, LVCC

- 27 Somerset, Taunton, CB40
31 Nottinghamshire (F), h, CB40

JUNE

- 3 Surrey, KIA Oval, CB40
4 Scotland, h, CB40
6-9 Kent, Tunbridge Wells, LVCC
14 Sussex (F), Hove, FLt20
15 Kent, Canterbury, FLt20
19 Middlesex (F), h, FLt20

- 20 Surrey (F), KIA Oval, FLt20

- 22 Kent (F), h, FLt20

- 27 Middlesex, Richmond, FLt20

- 29 Essex (F), Chelmsford, FLt20

- 30 Surrey, h, FLt20

JULY

- 6 Sussex (F), h, FLt20
8 Essex (F), h, FLt20
11-14 Yorkshire, h, LVCC
15 Durham, h, CB40
17 Notts (F), Trent Bridge, CB40
19-22 Essex, Chelmsford, LVCC
24/25 FLt20 quarter-finals

- 27-30 Kent, h, LVCC

AUGUST

- 6-9 Gloucestershire, Bristol, LVCC
10 Glamorgan (F), SWALEC, CB40
14 Somerset (F), h, CB40
15-18 Northamptonshire, h, LVCC
19 Surrey, h, CB40
21-24 Leics, Grace Road, LVCC
24/25 FLt20 semi-finals/finals
27 Durham, Chester-le-Street, CB40

SEPTEMBER

- 1 CB40 semi-finals
4-7 Essex, h, LVCC
11-14 Derbyshire, Derby, LVCC
15 CB40 final, Lords.

KEY: LVCC (LV County Championship division two), CB40 (Cydesdale Bank40), FLt20 (Friends Life t20), F (floodlit)

WITH the new cricket season less than a week away, there is every reason for optimism amongst Hampshire fans.

Simon Katich is back, Jimmy Adams is the county's first official Hampshire-born captain since the Second World War and faith has been put in the county's outstanding crop of homegrown talent.

Since moving to the The Ageas Bowl, Hampshire have become more known for fielding internationals with their best years behind them.

The likes of Alan Mullally, Shane Warne, Wasim Akram, Dominic Cork and Simon Jones have all spent the twilight of their careers with the county.

But this year should see Hampshire increase their reputation for fielding stars of the future.

Hampshire signed Michael Clarke and Kevin Pietersen before they played international cricket and of course Chris Tremlett, Dimi Mascarenhas, Michael Carberry and Danny Briggs have all developed into England players while with the county.

It is hoped James Vince, Liam Dawson and Chris Wood also go on to represent their country in years to come.

But the most exciting feature of Hampshire's class of 2012 is that they are united in a common cause.

Simon Walter

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CRICKET REPORTER

Every member of the likely starting XI against Gloucestershire on April 12 has been associated with the county for many years, if not the first team then as academy players.

Neil McKenzie is Hampshire's only Kolpak this year but his input in his first two seasons has been invaluable to the county's youngsters, Vince especially, and his commitment cannot be questioned.

Likewise Katich, who played most of his cricket for Hampshire in the Championship's second division in 2003 and 2004 before returning for a brief stint either side of the 2005 Ashes.

His experience will be most welcome, particularly at the start of the season with McKenzie not expected until June.

Katich is one of the best overseas signings in the Championship this year.

At 36, he still has plenty to offer and will be available for the whole season with the county he considers his "second home".

It is hoped Adams thrives as captain but Katich, who has skipped New South Wales

This year should see Hampshire increase their reputation for fielding stars of the future



EXPERIENCE: Captain Jimmy Adams and all-rounder Sean Ervine, left, will be key for Hampshire in 2012.

in recent years, and McKenzie will be tremendous sounding boards.

Carberry continued where he left off at the end of last season during Hampshire's pre-season tour and his experience will also be significant at the top of the order.

It will be interesting to see how Sean Ervine, now one of Hampshire's longest-serving play-

ers – he first appeared for the county in 2005 – does in his first season in the second division.

He and Dimi Mascarenhas provide options with bat and ball as well as a healthy dose of experience.

This may also be the year that Hamza Riazuddin

proves he can fill Mascarenhas's shoes in the long-term, particularly during the first six weeks of the season when Royals' T20 captain is at the Indian Premier League with Kings XI Punjab.

Michael Bates will

WHAT WOULD BALOTELLI THINK ABOUT THIS? SEE PAGES 36/37

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

bumper summer

Who is best to replace Broad?

THE departure of Stuart Broad with a calf injury means England will have to rejig their bowling attack for the second Test against Sri Lanka on Tuesday.

Tim Bresnan and Steven Finn are the standby seamers on tour and, unless the tourists opt to draft both men in and alter the balance of their line-up, they will be going head to head for a place in the side.

Here, the *Sports Pink* assesses the claims of both men.

BOWLING ATTRIBUTES

Bresnan has all the confidence to be expected from a Yorkshire paceman and despite his burly frame proved admirable stamina in Bangladesh two years ago - a big plus in the Sri Lankan conditions.

He is not as obvious a wicket-taking threat as Finn but is better at drying up runs and can reverse swing the ball. Finn's strength lies in the extra yard of



FINN

BRESNAN

pace he has found in the last six months and his happy knack of picking up wickets, sometimes in the middle of average spells. Broad at his best is capable of attacking batsmen and keeping the run-rate down. England may now have to decide between the two.

BATTING

Bresnan is a clear winner in this comparison.

A genuine number seven, he averages 45 in Tests, has a top score of 91 and ensures the side's tail does not engorge as a result of Broad's departure.

Finn, on the other hand, averages only 8.75 in the longer format and has a best of 19.

With James Anderson and Monty Panesar already in place as genuine tail-enders, picking Finn would provide an element of risk but at 1-0 down, England could choose to gamble.

RECORD

Finn has played 12 Tests to Bresnan's 10 and has nine more wickets, with 50 to his name.

He has already taken five wickets in an innings three times, to Bresnan's once, and enjoys a superior strike-rate.

Yet Bresnan revels in the fact that England have won all 10 of the matches he has been involved in and both his bowling average and economy (23.60 and 2.85) outstrip Finn's (26.92 and 3.89).



YOUNG GUNS: Michael Bates, above right, and Danny Briggs, below, could play key roles for Hampshire in 2012.

Barbados and with a long season ahead that is a worry following a significant winter cull.

With Cork, Jones and Friedel De Wet all gone, James Tomlinson, Chris Wood and David Balcombe will be key with the new ball.

So too Kabir Ali and David Griffiths - fitness permitting.

Another problem will arise if Briggs is involved in England's one-day series against South Africa in August and September, as is likely given his first senior cap won recently.

Especially as conditions as that stage of the season should be in his favour.

But Briggs' absence would at least mean that Dawson will finally get the chance to develop his bowling and Katich's left-arm chinaman has improved since he was last with the county.

Having developed into a batsman who bowls in recent seasons, Dawson will get more opportunities to demonstrate his all-round talent, even with Briggs in the team, in Tahir's absence.

Especially if the dry weather continues.

It will be fascinating to see whether this Hampshire side can make an immediate return to the Championship's top flight.

What we can be sure of is that Adams' young, homegrown team will have the full support of members during their first season in division two since winning promotion under Warne in 2004.

The vast majority of Ageas Bowl regulars are glad the academy alumni are being given the opportunity to flourish and we wish them well.

have the chance to show he is the man to replace Nic Pothas.

Bates has a big challenge ahead of him in his first full season as Hampshire's first-choice wicket-keeper, during which he will aim to prove that he is the man to bat at number seven.

Had Hampshire been awarded an Ashes Test in 2013 or 2015 back in

September, they may well have signed a more experienced wicket-keeper.

But finances have dictated that Bates will start the season behind the stumps and that Adam Rouse will be his understudy.

It is hoped the decision to give youth its head is vindicated as Hampshire have a relatively small

squad compared with that which started last season.

Several bowlers suffered "minor" injuries during Hampshire's trip to



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TWEETS of the week

Adam Lallana (adlallana1) was hoping not to be caught short as a result of this week's fuel panic: "Right need petrol. This could be fun."

Jack Cork (jackcork1) supported a Swindon Town side including Lee Holmes, albeit in vain, during their Johnstone's Paint Trophy final defeat against Chesterfield at Wembley last weekend: "Good luck to holmesy in the jpt today! Going to be a Swindon fan today!"



Billy Sharp (billysharp10), above, had support from both sides before scoring both goals against his former club last week: "Just seen a donny fan walking the streets of southampton in a sharp 10 blue away shirt.wound my window down and high fived him."

Hampshire batsman Michael Carberry (carbs646) paid tribute to Ben Hollioake on the tenth anniversary of his former Surrey teammate's death: "Rip Ben hollioake! Great man is watching over us. Miss u buddy."



England's injured former Hampshire bowler Chris Tremlett (ChrisTremlett33), pictured, enjoyed watching Jonathan Trott attempt to rewrite history against Sri Lanka in Galle: "What a test match. Come on Trott!"

Saints teenager James Ward-Prowse (j_w_prowse) is a step closer to being let loose on Hampshire's roads: "Passed my theory test!!! Great start to the day!! ontheroadsoon"

Hamble cyclist Dani King (daniking1) is enjoying her preparations for the World Championships in Australia: "First road ride and explore of Melbourne done :) so far so good! Sat by the beach and watched an ironman! Fair play that is one hard event."



Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

What would Mario

IT'S the highest level of competitive sport in this country, regularly producing enthralling end of season finishes with regards to title victories and relegation agonies.

Yet, sadly, it regularly fails to attract many column inches in the national red-top tabloids, while some of the attendance figures can be counted in the hundreds rather than the thousands.

And the players – including, if you're lucky, the top English stars – are also attempting to win prize money that the Premier League's top earners would bank in a fortnight.

Welcome to the world of the LV= County Cricket Championship.

While Carlos Tevez can rake in millions from just sitting on his backside, England's county crick-

Simon Carter

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SPORTS EDITOR



eters need to play sixteen four-day matches from early April through to mid-September to stand a chance of pocketing the £350,000 winners' prize money.

That's £350,000 to share between them all, not for each of them.

I wonder what Mario Balotelli would make of that – a bonus for winning the Premier League of about £17,000 per player based on a 20-man squad!

For comparison purposes, West Ham banked around £750,000 in 'prize money' for finishing rock bottom of the Premier League in 2010/11.

The county cricket champions, in all, receive £500,000 – £350,000 to the squad, while the club banks £150,000.

Those are not large sums when you're talking the highest level of club sport in the country, especially for a sport as popular as cricket is.

Still, it's better than it used to be. Up until 2008, the county champions only received £100,000!

Of course, comparisons between the cash-laden Premier League and cricket's equivalent are futile.

Were Lancashire ever in a position to attract 70,000 plus crowds to their Old Trafford, maybe sponsors

None of football's mega millions, but all the excitement ...



CHAMPIONS: Lancashire celebrate their final day title success at Taunton last September.

would be willing to fork out extra millions.

Let's be realistic here.

And realistic, when it comes to the county championship, means exciting and unpredictable.

Since 2001, there have been seven different winners of the first division title in 11 years. Ten different counties have won the second division title in the last 10 years.

Of the seven top flight champions, five have since been relegated – Durham, champs in 2009 and 2010, the

exception to the rule so far (you can't include Lancashire in this equation).

Both Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire were relegated just 12 months after winning the title. Imagine that in the Premier League, or even rugby union's Aviva Premiership for that matter.

It is impossible to predict with any degree of conviction who will win the £500,000 in 2012.

One thing is for sure, though.

Any neutral possessing a heart should want Somerset to win it!

As someone who worked the County Ground scoreboard at Taunton as a summer job in the mid-1980s, I have to admit I am biased here.

But look at the recent roll-call of agony.

In the last two years Somerset have finished runners-up FIVE times in six competitions.

They have never won the County Championship in over a century of trying, yet

in 2010 finished level on points with Nottinghamshire only to miss out having won fewer matches.

They lost to Hampshire at The Ageas Bowl in the final of the t20 Cup the same year, the scores finishing level but the hosts winning due to having lost fewer wickets.

And they have also lost twice in the CB 40 over final.

Surely, this must be the year silverware returns to the West Country?

GOT A CRICKET STORY FOR US? EMAIL echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

think about this?



BOX OFFICE: Shahid Afridi.

The county are remarkably fortunate to have Marcus Trescothick available full-time, and his sheer weight of runs have provided a springboard for their recent near misses.

In effect, Somerset have someone easily capable of playing Test cricket available all the time, while the counties with current Test players hardly see them at all.

Witness Kevin Pietersen playing just a handful of first class games in his six years as a Hampshire man.

Ridiculous.

There are less stellar names from overseas playing county cricket these days.

Back in the 70s and 80s Hampshire boasted Gordon Greenidge and Malcolm Marshall, while Viv Richards and Joel Garner regularly destroyed Somerset's opponents in

one-day games.

Clive Lloyd, skipper of the great West Indies sides that contained those four players mentioned above, regularly turned out for Lancashire.

Now, with so much international cricket taking place virtually all the year round, the very best players either don't want to commit to a short spell in England, or simply can't fit it into their hectic sched-

ules.

So now not only do we not see our own leading cricketers regularly playing in the Championship, but we don't see the biggest overseas names either.

We have to wait for the t20 for that, with the likes of Muttiah Muralitharan (Gloucestershire), Shahid Afridi (Hampshire) and Chris Gayle (Somerset) among the highest profile signings.

However, that should still not distract from the Championship's ability to sustain interest right to the end of the season.

This summer, we can expect to read even less about the competition in the national press, given the European Championships and the small matter of the London Olympics to follow.

Nevertheless, to those interested, the Championship will surely provide its annual mix of drama, excitement and intrigue.

There will certainly be a healthy dose of the latter at The Ageas Bowl as Hampshire bid to return to the elite league.

Much has been made of the fact that finances have dictated Jimmy Adams will lead a youthful-looking squad over the coming months.

But the likes of Danny Briggs, James Vince, Liam Dawson and Chris Wood have all had a couple of years, at least, in the first team squad. We are not talking inexperienced novices here.

Throw in the experience of Simon Katich and Neil McKenzie – two former Test stars – and Michael Carberry and Dimi Mascarenhas fit for a whole summer, plus the all-round abilities of Sean Ervine, then the Royals certainly have enough about them batting-wise to challenge.

In Imran Tahir's absence, Briggs will adopt the main spinner's mantle, while seam quintet James Tomlinson, Kabir Ali (if fit), David Griffiths, Chris Wood and David Balcombe will be vying for a starting place alongside Mascarenhas and Ervine, who should both be shoe-ins given their all-round abilities and knowledge.

Should Hampshire be good enough to challenge?

Yes, but predicting either division of the Championship has rarely been a simple task in recent times, and long may it remain so.

BOOK of the WEEK

Underdogs
The Unlikely Story of Football's
First FA Cup Heroes
By Keith Dewhurst

Sportsbookofthefirstmonth.com price:
£ 11.04 saving 35% on rrp

It was in the late 19th century that English football enjoyed its first prolonged surge in popularity, prompting clubs, especially those based in the north west, to integrate Scottish players renowned for their passing skills into their teams.

It was a move which transformed the sport, making it faster, more skilful and further differentiated it from rugby – scrimmaging was still an incongruous feature of the round ball game.

This Scottish influx did not please everyone and it wasn't long before a team from the industrialised north faced another from the slightly more genteel south, a clash of styles and cultures widened by Britain's industrial revolution.

Not surprisingly, it was in the FA Cup that such encounters first took place, but in 1879 the competition yielded its first giant killing when a team from Darwen in Lancashire, replete with two Scots, Jimmy Love and Fergus Suter, travelled to London to play the more sophisticated Remnants at Kennington Oval.

What makes this tie so important is that Love and Suter were football's first professionals.

Professionalism had been outlawed by the FA which feared that paying players would ruin the game; how present those

fears proved.

Not that Darwen were a Victorian-age Manchester City.

They had to stage a concert and raise money via subscriptions and collections to pay for their train journey south, but it proved worthwhile – they beat Remnants 3-2 after extra time to set up a duel with Old Etonians, the epitome of the amateur Victorian game.

In *Underdogs*, Keith Dewhurst, a successful playwright and novelist, weaves an engaging, well-observed tale, mixing social history with what could be called the roots of modern football.

The first tie between Darwen and Old Etonians finished level, even though the Lancashire side were 5-1 down with 15 minutes remaining.

Incredibly, the Etonians refused to travel north for the replay, so the FA insisted on Darwen making another expensive trip south – for another draw.

Again the Etonians refused to play in Lancashire, forcing a second replay on their own ground, which they won 6-2.

Space permits us to provide only the barest of details here, but if you're looking for a true, well-written football story highlighting class divisions, how the game changed and early evidence of the will to win set in Victorian England, then *Underdogs* will not disappoint.

TOOLSTATION
A LOT MORE THAN TOOLS

ECHO AND PINK - BEST FOR CRICKET 12 MONTHS OF THE YEAR

TREVOR MITCHELL INTERNATIONAL



Photo shows Trevor Mitchell and Nick Martin having returned from their epic trip to Russia.

Both Trevor and Nick were judging the world championships and had little time to rest, and they were soon on their way to Finland for some more world class judging.

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ST. JAMES ROAD METHODIST CHURCH, SHIRLEY

The Crucifixion

Good Friday, 6th April at 8.00 p.m.

A Meditation on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer
By Sir John Stainer

St. James Road Methodist Church Choir, and members of
St. Thomas' Church Choir, Fair and members of Southampton Choral Society.

Soloists: David Turner Bass: Gordon Willis Tenor: Alban Rees-Jones Organ:
Conductor: David Woodman

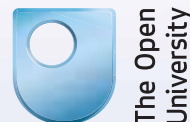


RED LETTER DAY

Bloody, beaten, and nailed to a cross, a dying Jesus looked at those around Him and spoke His final words as a man. What did he say? You're invited to come and find out why Jesus' death changed history.

Sunday 1st April 10:30am & 6:30pm
Friday 6th April 10:30am
Sunday 8th April 10:30am & 6:30pm

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23 Apr : Isle of Wight 5 day	£299
27 Apr : Daniel O'Donnell in Bournemouth 3 day	£169
30 Apr : Torquay Steam & Sail 5 day	£258
30 Apr : Austria 8 day	£679
04 May : Spalding Flower Carnival 4 day	£239
04 May : Bulbfields & Amsterdam 4 day	£293
05 May : Bank Holiday Mystery Tour 3 day	£139
06 May : Ireland - Carlow 6 day	£479
06 May : Chester & The Liangollen Canal 5 day	£329
07 May : Warners Holme Lacy 5 day	£395
07 May : The Costa Brava Flower Festival 9 day	£496
07 May : The Gironde Estuary River Cruise 10 day	£1199
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11 May : Paignton at Leisure 8 day	£339
12 May : Jersey by Air 8 day	£480
13 May : Beamish & Cookson 5 day	£309
14 May : Eastbourne & Bluebell Railway 5 day	£319
14 May : North Devon - Ilfracombe 5 day	£259
14 May : Ostend & Brugge 5 day	£299
20 May : South Wales - Tenby 7 day	£427
20 May : Nottingham, Peak District & Lincoln 5 day	£289
20 May : Bournemouth at Leisure 6 day	£239
21 May : Folkestone, Dover Castle & Brugge 5 day	£269
21 May : Torquay Steam & Sail 5 day	£247
25 May : Paris City Break 4 day	£259
26 May : Welsh Coast - Barmouth 8 day	£476
27 May : Northumbria 6 day	£409
27 May : Gardens of Kent 6 day	£439
28 May : Llandudno & Snowdonia 5 day	£319
28 May : Rhyl, Snowdonia & Chester 5 day	£217
28 May : A Cornish Gem 5 day	£365
28 May : Snowdonia & Little Trains 5 day	£358
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HOLLYWOOD

'Just for fun'

A new fancy dress store is set to open at the beginning of next month which is to aid disappointment after the popular 'Just For Fun' store closed its doors earlier this year.

Hollywood, being the biggest fancy dress chain on the south coast of England, has saved the jobs of many at the old fancy dress store in Southampton 'Just For Fun' and is revamping it to be bigger and better with a more modern and youthful atmosphere to attract young and old alike.

The new store, called Hollywood 'Just For Fun,' will be located at the former 'Just for Fun' site at 31-37 Queensway, Southampton SO14 3BL. The vibrant new store will bring fun and colour to the area with its new eye catching signage which brightens up Queensway.

Hollywood Fancy Dress already have two stores in Bournemouth attracting a huge and diverse clientele and are excited to open up a third. Hollywood offer good value for money, a huge selection of fancy dress costumes, costume accessories, balloons, wigs, face paint, masks and so much more.

Hollywood Balloon Arcade is another important part of the party shop offering a balloon decoration service offering a huge selection of foil and latex balloons for all occasions including balloon bouquets and clusters, single foils, table decorations plus so much more.

Hollywood 'Just For Fun' is to open on Good Friday, April 6th, at midday. There will be a massive zombie infestation in and around Southampton to promote the event, as well as a whole host of amazing characters hunting down the zombies. Come dressed as a Zombie, and the best dressed could be the winner of a £50, £75 or £100 gift voucher for the new store!

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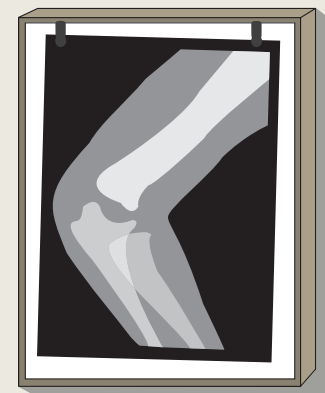


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GYMNASTS SHOW OFF THEIR SKILLS FOR CHARITY



RAISING MONEY IN THE SUNSHINE: Southampton Gymnastics Club gave a demonstration of their abilities to shoppers in the city centre, in aid of Sport Relief.

**SPORT
RELIEF
2012**



Swansea boss not keen on Spurs job

SWANSEA manager Brendan Rodgers has branded speculation linking him with a move to Tottenham as "disrespectful" to Harry Redknapp.

Rodgers, 39, has won plenty of plaudits for guiding Swansea into the top half of the Barclays Premier League table with an attractive possession style of play.

The performances of the south Wales club, which have included outstanding home wins over Arsenal and Manchester City, have led to the Northern Irishman, who signed a new three-and-a-half-year contract last month, being linked with moves to Spurs and Chelsea.

Reports in two national newspapers this morning suggested that Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy is eyeing Rodgers as a potential replacement should ex-Saints boss Redknapp take over as full-time England manager.

But Rodgers was quick to reiterate his commitment to Swansea and said any talk of someone replacing Redknapp while the former Portsmouth, West Ham and Southampton boss is still in the job was unfair.

He said: "People need to fill pages in papers and they need discussion points."

"But my only focus is Swansea and Harry's only focus will be Tottenham and I just think it's disrespectful talking about him and the job he is in."

"He loves being at Tottenham and I know from talking to him when he was here in December that he enjoys being there."

"Likewise with myself, my only concentration and focus is on this job and trying to retain our status over the next eight games in this league."

He added: "It's part of British football, speculation, gossip, whatever you want to call it."

"When these reports come out you take them as they are, it fills a bit of a paper, people read it and it will probably be someone else tomorrow."

"Harry is Tottenham manager, he is clearly a candidate for the England job but at this moment he is Tottenham manager and to speculate about him coming out of there and someone going in while he is in a job, I don't think it's proper."

The timing of the speculation is particularly pertinent as Swansea travel to White Hart Lane on Sunday.



England expects from Stu

STUART Lancaster has finally been able to drop the interim tag after being officially appointed as England's head coach.

Lancaster laid the foundations of a new squad during the RBS 6 Nations and his task now is to build on it and deliver a winning England team at the 2015 Rugby World Cup.

Here, *the Sports Pink* looks at five challenges that lie ahead for the former school teacher:

THE HONEYMOON'S OVER

England tackle South Africa four times this year plus Australia, New Zealand and Fiji in a brutal series of fixtures. Some bad results could lead to questions over Lancaster's inexperience. He has vowed to remain true to his principles even in adversity.

That is sure to be tested in the coming months.

WORLD CUP SEEDINGS

England are currently fourth in the world rankings and must be there at the end of 2012 to be top seeds at their home World Cup, a tough ask given their fixture schedule.

Lancaster, right, plays down the importance of a top seeding but it would guarantee England avoid Australia, New Zealand and South Africa until the knockout stages.



ATTACK ATTACK ATTACK

England were dogged and defiant in the Six Nations but need to add attacking invention and guile to their game. Lancaster is expected to have argued for Andy Farrell to be retained in the England set-up. There has been talk of experienced New Zealand attack specialist Wayne Smith joining the management team.

NATIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

This is a medium-term objective but it formed a central part of Lancaster's presentation to the RFU. He believes England need a state of the art training base with indoor and outdoor facilities that can also help develop national age-group teams.

WIN THE WORLD CUP

That is what Lancaster has been recruited to do.

Despite his lack of top international experience, Lancaster has convinced the RFU he has the vision required for England to win in 2015 and the ability to put those plans into action over the next three years.

● England's 2012 RBS 6 Nations coaching team could be reunited in full-time roles during the next few days.

Forwards specialist Graham Rowntree is set to follow Lancaster by landing a long-term deal.

And that then leaves the possible sticking point – backs and defence coach Andy Farrell.

Saracens have confirmed that they are braced for an approach from the RFU for dual-code international Farrell, who is their first-team coach and under contract to them.

Lancaster, Rowntree and Farrell – despite being together for just eight weeks – masterminded a second-placed finish in this season's Six Nations.

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WINCHESTER under 7s, above, carried off the Hampshire tournament honours, becoming county champions by beating Andover 21-18 in the final at Fordingbridge RFC.

On a glorious, sunny day, Winchester ran in almost 140 tries in their six matches.

Pool victories against Ellingham, US Portsmouth, Vectis and Trojans were followed by a hard fought semi-final game against New Milton.

With the scores level at 17-17 at full time and the teams equal on points awarded in the pool matches, Winchester went through having scored more tries in the pool stages (100 to 65).

The winning squad comprised Ben

Shewry, Tom Jennings, Jamie Hickson, Nicholas Moore, William Matthews, Matthew Carrall-Wilcocks, Gilbert Rosenfalck, James Tall, Henry Layzell, Matthew DeLara, Cameron Kingston and Ben Perrin.

Winchester also supplied half of a Barbarians team on the day with Trojans RFC and narrowly failed to win the Shield final.

The Barbarians lost 22-19 in the final to Havant RFC despite Winchester's 6-man squad – Sam Holliday, Dominic Kelly, Patrick Dunne, Harry Bristowe, James Poulteney and Monty Randle – maintaining their 100 per cent record throughout.

Fordingbridge, revelling in home advantage, lifted the Bowl.

Fordingbridge Under-8s won the Plate in a tournament at Romsey.

ELLINGHAM & RINGWOOD U7 Order no: 14132130



ROMSEY U7 (above)
Submitted pic.



FORDINGBRIDGE U7 (right)
Order no: 14132187



TAGGED: Action from the Fordingbridge tournament. Order no: 14132150 (above) & 14132167



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Youth rugby special ... youth rugby special



Peter Symonds College Rugby 1st XV have won the Hampshire Schools Cup for the third year running.

They lifted the Wren Cup again with an 18-3 win against Churcher's.

It was 3-3 at half-time

with Alex Cornford's early penalty being cancelled out.

Tom Williams put Symonds ahead with Cornford adding the conversion from out wide.

Fly-half Cornford increased the lead with another penalty before

Alex Miers grabbed a second try.

"It was a fantastic achievement to win," said captain Ben Till.

"This success is indicative of the effort and hard work shown throughout this season and in previous years."



TACKLED: Action from Symonds' final win against Churcher's.



HAT-TRICK: Ben Till with The Wren Cup.

Girls wrap up league title



TRY SCORERS: Chloe Barrett, below, and Erin MacDermott.



ELLINGHAM and Ringwood's under 18 girls were jumping for joy after winning the RFUW South Coast League with victory in the Egham tournament.

The competition was a 15 a side competition involving Chobham, Egham, Ellingham & Ringwood and Guildford. The New Forest side won all three of their games, scoring 34 points and con-

ceding just 12 to Chobham.

Their try scorers were Chloe Barrett (2), Erin MacDermott (2), Georgia Smith and Anna Stephenson. Georgia Smith also kicked four conversions.

Pardew sets lofty goals

ALAN Pardew has set his sights on bringing a trophy or European football back to Newcastle within three years ... regardless of what happens this season.

The Magpies head into Sunday's Barclays Premier League clash with Liverpool at St James' Park sitting in sixth place, one position and eight points better off than this weekend's big-spending visitors.

If they were to remain there at the end of the campaign, that could be good enough to book a Europa League berth for next season.

That would represent a remarkable achievement after just two years back in the top flight.

It would also be a great personal success for Pardew, who was sacked by Saints chairman Nicola Cortese back in August 2010 just a few months after guiding the club to JPT final victory at Wembley.

Asked how far they would be ahead of schedule in their long-term plan if they managed to achieve that, Pardew said: "It's difficult to say."

"You just want to be in there competing, and we have done that."

"Whether we get a European place will probably be decided by fate more than anything."

"We have had a great season regardless of the European spot, and we want to do that again"



next year.

"By hook or by crook, in the next three years it would be nice to get some sort of European football or win a trophy. That's the goal."

Newcastle will embark upon the final eight-game run-in still in with a chance of claiming a Champions League spot with Tottenham only five points ahead of them in fourth.

However, a realistic Pardew insists they have no chance of overhauling Spurs.

He said: "We won't get Champions League football. I just think that's too big [a gap] to bridge - five points on Spurs, and Arsenal are probably away from us now."

"It's too much."

The Magpies' hopes of playing in the Europa League next season could depend largely on who reaches the FA Cup final with a team from outside the top six guaranteed a spot if they play a side which qualifies by another route, meaning Everton could hold the key.

It is a system which has worked to the benefit of the Tyneside club in the past - as it did to Saints back in 2003 - but which could hurt them this time around, much to the manager's disappointment.

He said: "It's slightly unfair that the losing cup finalist gets a place in front of a whole season's campaign, but that's the rule at the moment."

"We are not going to change that before the end of the season, we have to accept that."

"It should change for next year, but we have still got a great chance of finishing fifth or sixth, and that's what we are going to try to do."

CONTACT THE SPORTS PINK AT 023 8042 4515

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"If you talk about desperation, they played a player the other night who refused to go on the pitch, the manager said he'd never play again and he takes a five-month holiday in Argentina. What is that? Could that come under the description of desperation?" - **Sir Alex Ferguson responds to Patrick Vieira's assertion that United were desperate to bring back Paul Scholes by accusing them of the same over Carlos Tevez.**

"When United play at home they get some advantage that other teams don't get. When you go to United, Madrid, Barcelona, or Milan, it's always difficult for the referee to go against these kind of teams. This is the way it is. It's something the teams who are used to winning get all the time, so we need to win games so we have this advantage in the future" - **Vieira believes Manchester United get preferential treatment from referees.**



PATRICK VIEIRA: Admits his comments were taken out of context.

"Why is Vieira so concerned with Man Utd...2 comments in a week or so....c'mon maaaaaan let it go" - **Rio Ferdinand makes a quick response to Vieira's comments on Twitter.**

"I made it clear in the interview twice that I wanted to avoid criticising United and even stated that I didn't watch the United game against Fulham and had not seen the incident to which the reporter referred. That part of the interview was ignored and my comments were taken completely out of context. I called the reporter twice to ask for a retraction and an apology which has not come" - **Vieira makes clear his dissatisfaction.**

"It's not a white elephant. It's a white elephant that they're trying to make into a pink flamingo" - **Leyton Orient chairman Barry Hearn gives his views on using the Olympic Stadium as a football ground after announcing his**



BARRY HEARN: Critical of Hammers' stadium bid.

club were not in the bidding to become tenants.

"This represents a quantum change in the experience of a football punter and frankly it could be the demise of West Ham if they move there. It's a huge slap in the face to their fans and their history. The stadium is a magnificent athletics stadium, a magnificent building. It's just not built for football. The pitch is 40 to 50 yards away from the front row of seats. I personally find that abhorrent" - **Hearn gives his views on West Ham's Olympic Stadium bid.**

Hampshire & IOW Sports Awards ... Hampshire AWARDS RECOGNISE



GUS McKechnie rowed his way into the record books before being honoured at the 2012 Hampshire & Isle of Wight Sports Awards.

The remarkable Southampton fund-raiser set a new world record on a static rowing machine in aid of Sport Relief.

Gus, who has cycled more than 12,500 miles and raised £25,000 for charity, rowed 100km in a day at the Red Funnel ferry terminal in Southampton.

The former Solent University student then picked up the Outstanding Personal Achievement of the Year prize at the Hampshire & IOW Awards.

The rowing challenge was the latest in a long line of fundraising challenges which has seen Gus run several marathons, row around the Isle of Wight and help set up indoor rowing competitions in schools across Hampshire.

Gus's fundraising mission was inspired by the death of his 31-year-old brother Andrew in 2003 from the genetic disorder haema-chromatosis, with which Gus also suffers.

His father died in the same year, and in 2007 his mother died from cancer.

Among his current plans is a John O'Groats to Land's End bike challenge organised by Olympic rower James Cracknell in June, as well as trials for the Paralympics 2012 squad.

He is also currently in the process of cycling 50,000 miles on a stationary bike that is based on a Red Funnel Ferry in memory of his parents and brother.

McKechnie commented: "It's brilliant to win."

"It's great to get recognition for all the work involved in volunteering and getting children involved. I felt honoured to be nominated and wasn't expecting to win."

Winchester was well represented with two winners and three shortlisted nominees.

Sailor Annabel Vose won Junior Sportswoman and Hampshire Boys Under-13 Squash club, sponsored by Promo Logo, won Junior Team.

Winchester's shortlisted nominees included Jade Traynor and Dan Wiltshire, who were nominated for Junior Volunteer, and James Claws, nominated for Junior Disability Sportsman.

New Forest winners were Henry Lloyd Williams and Sam Batten, who won the Senior Team award,

Ellingham & Ringwood RFC – who won Club of the Year – and Alice Tai, the Junior Disability Sportsman.

Ellingham's award came 12 months after they had won the Rugby Football Union's Community Rugby Club of the year. They run sides in every age group from Under 6s through to Under 16s. They also have successful Under 13s, 15s and 18s girls sides.

At a senior level, their 1st XV compete in London & SE Division 3, their 2nd XV in Dorset & Wilts Division 1 and their 3rd XV in Dorset & Wilts Division 4.

The Forest's shortlisted nominee was gymnast Laura Edwards, for Junior Sportsman.

AWARD WINNERS

Junior Sportsman: Kai Widdrington, Eastleigh
Junior Sportsman: Annabel Vose, Winchester
Junior Disability Sportsman: Alice Tai, Eastleigh
Senior Sportsman: Samuel Goodall, Basingstoke
Senior Sportsman: Natalie Thomas, Test Valley
Senior Disability Sportsman: Deanna Coates, Hart
Masters Sportsman: Bronwin Carter, Havant
Outstanding Personal Achievement: Gus McKechnie, Southampton
Junior Team: Hampshire Boys U13 Squash, Winchester
Senior Team: Henry Lloyd Williams & Sam Batten, New Forest
Participation coach: Julie Osborne, Portsmouth
Performance Coach: Adam Paterson, Eastleigh
Official of the Year: Darryl Quinn, Basingstoke
Club of the Year: Ellingham & Ringwood, New Forest
Junior Volunteer of the Year: Edward van Meerkerk, Basingstoke
Senior Volunteer of the Year: Debbie Parnell, Eastleigh
Service to Sport: Lou Walker, Test Valley

Winners from the Eastleigh area were ballroom dancer Kai Widdrington, who won Junior Sportsman, Adam Paterson, who won Performance Coach, and Debbie Parnell, who won Senior Volunteer.

Shortlisted Eastleigh nominees were Ricky Goddard, nominated for Official of the Year, Eastleigh Running Club, nominated for Club of the Year, and Karen Rushton, who was nominated for Masters Sportsman.

The annual celebration of sport is an annual joint venture between Hampshire County Council, Sport Hampshire & IOW and the Local Sports Councils and Forums in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.



WINNERS: Gus McKechnie, above right with award sponsor Gary Makin from Inprint, sailors Henry Lloyd Williams and Sam Batten, left, and Alice Tai, below right with award sponsor Warren Eades of Toucan Design.



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& IOW Sports Awards ... Hampshire & IOW ... OUR FINEST...



WINNERS: Ellingham & Ringwood RFC, above, Annabel Vose, above right, Kia Widdington, right, and Adam Paterson with CJ Lee, left.



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"It's been a lot of hard work and I'm so thankful for a lot of people helping me out along the way. They all know who they are" - **Tiger Woods** ends a two-and-a-half-year PGA title drought at Bay Hill.

"We're doing that for a fantastic cause. A few people had a giggle and that was over and done with. It was absolutely not about the red hair and to call us completely unprofessional is bang out of order" - **Leeds Rhinos coach Brian McDermott** hits out as his side are criticised on commentary during a heavy loss to St Helens for dying their hair red for charity.



THIS MEANS MORE:

Chris Smalling, right, on the Premier title race.

"It definitely means more because it's City. It's down to us two now and it's massive. The media build it up and as players we definitely want to win it because we know quite a few of their players. It's going to be crucial to get those bragging rights for next year" - **Manchester United's Chris Smalling** on the title battle with neighbours City.

"I think Lee Mason was a very strong referee and we were fortunate with that as we all know Luis Suarez is an artist in getting free-kicks and good situations for himself" - **Wigan manager Roberto Martinez** after a 2-1 win at Liverpool in which a Suarez goal was ruled out for handball.

"There is no rhyme or reason why the second goal should be chalked off when Luis challenged for the header. It wasn't handball. I must have a different television. It hit his shoulder as he turned to try to play it in" - **Kenny Dalglish** sees it differently.



NO RHYME OR REASON: Liverpool boss Kenny Dalglish.

"The Championship is a scene of carnage with clubs pursuing the Holy Grail of promotion, losing between £5m and £10m a year and a third of them spending over 100% of turnover on wages" - **Portsmouth administrator Trevor Birch** paints a grim picture of the financial health of Championship clubs.

"One does not expect a professional sportsman to be such a cry baby" - **Narain Karthikeyan** hits back at Sebastian Vettel who described him as a "cucumber" after the pair clashed on track during the Malaysian Formula One GP.



WINNERS: Hampshire's under-13 squash side.



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Fares

Destination		First	Premier
Bath	Oxford	£145	£225
Windsor	Thames Pageant	£155	£239

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- A glass of champagne after you board in the morning
- Full English breakfast with tea or coffee
- Four course dinner with coffee and chocolates on return.

Bath or Bristol

Wednesdays 16 May, 20 June, 5 Sep, 3 Oct, 28 Nov, 5 Dec



Things to do...

- The Roman Baths, Britain's only hot springs.
 - Bath Abbey, the last of the great medieval churches.
 - Shopping, including many one off boutiques unique to this city.
 - Lunch in one of the city's superb pubs and restaurants.
- Bristol** - after dropping passengers at Bath the train continues on to Bristol where you will have a stay of approx. 3hrs.

Oxford

Wednesdays 2 May, 15 Aug, 19 Sep



Things to do...

- Buy an open top bus day ticket at the station, or an Official Walking Tour.
- Seek out your favourite TV and film locations - Harry Potter scenes were shot at Christ Church Cathedral and the Bodleian Library.
- Visit the remains of the dodo at the University Museum of Natural History.
- Climb one of five towers to view the dreaming spires.
- Visit one of the city's many famous pubs.

Windsor

Wednesdays 6 June or 22 August



Things to do...

- Windsor Castle - the oldest and largest inhabited castle in the world and favourite weekend home of The Queen.
- Experience the Royal Borough in its finest with a horse-drawn carriage ride.
- Explore quaint antiques emporiums and the specialist souvenir shops.
- Enjoy an open top double decker bus tour of the Windsor and Eton area.
- Relax in a pavement café and watch the world go by.

Thames Jubilee River Pageant

Sunday 3 June



Thames Diamond Jubilee River Pageant day trip...

The Thames River Pageant will take place on **Sunday 3rd June**, in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Up to a thousand boats will parade down the Thames, their crews and passengers turned out in their finest rigs. The spectacle will be further enhanced by music barges, fire boats spouting geysers and firework barges. Alternatively you can visit any other London attraction during your six hours in the city.

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Barclays Premier League

A. Villa2	Chelsea4
Collins 77	Sturridge 9
Lichaj 80	Ivanovic 51,83
	Torres 90
HT 0-1	Att 34,740
Everton.....2	W.B.A......0
McAuley 18 og	
Anichebe 68	
HT 1-0	Att 32,051
Fulham.....2	Norwich.....1
Dempsey 2	Wilbraham 77
Duff 13	
HT 2-0	Att 25,700
Man City.....3	Sunderland.....3
Balotelli 43 pen,85	Larsson 31,55
Kolarov 86	Bendtnier 45
HT 1-2	Att 25,215
Q.P.R......2	Arsenal.....1
Taarabt 22, Diakite 66	Walcott 37
HT 1-1	Att 18,033
Wigan.....2	Stoke.....0
Alcaraz 54, Moses 90	
HT 0-0	
Wolves.....2	Bolton.....3
Knights 53	
Jarvis 88	Alonso 80, K Davies 64
HT 0-0	Att 25,215

npower Championship

Blackpool.....L	SAINTS.....L
HT L-L	
Brighton.....1	Middlesbro.....0
Calderon 73	Emnes 61
HT 0-0	Att 20,553
Bristol C.....1	Derby City.....1
Pitman 74	Bryson 20
HT 0-1	Att 12,794
Cardiff.....0	Millwall.....0
HT 0-0	Att 21,259
Crystal P.....0	Nottm For.....3
HT 0-0	Majewski 53,72,82
Hull.....0	Coventry.....2
HT 0-1	Cooper 13 og
Ipswich.....1	Barnsley.....0
Murphy 48	HT 0-0
HT 0-0	Att 20,053
Leeds Utd.....0	Watford.....2
HT 0-1	Iwelumo 5,89
Peterboro.....1	Leicester.....0
Taylor 60	HT 0-0
POMPEY.....1	Burnley.....1
Norris 19	Att 10,714
HT 1-1	Trippier 16
West Ham.....2	Reading.....4
Cole 8	Ings 47
Vaz Te 77	Austin 74,90,90
HT 1-2	Att 15,739

npower League One

CHERRIES.....0	Yeovil.....0
HT 0-0	Att 6,170
Bury.....2	Tranmere.....1
Sodje 67, Coke 72	
HT 0-0	Att 3,733
Carlisle.....2	Huddersfield.....1
Berrett 48, Miller 90	Novak 80
HT 0-0	Att 7,530
Charlton.....2	Leyton O.....0
Wagstaff 7	
N. Guessan 82	Att 17,425
HT 1-0	
Chesterfield.....1	Scunthorpe.....0
Westcarr 21	Robertson 28,75
HT 1-1	Walker 65, Barcham 81
Exeter.....1	Colchester.....0
Cunton 83	Duggid 6
HT 0-1	Att 3,889
Hartlepool.....0	Sheff Utd.....1
HT 0-0	Evans 79 pen
	Att 5,825

M K Dons.....1	Brentford.....2
Williams 88 pen	Donaldson 12, Douglas 26
HT 0-2	Att 11,570
Notts Cnty.....1	Oldham.....0
Sheehan 89	
HT 0-0	Att 6,326
Rochdale.....3	Walsall.....3
Kennedy 66	Ledesma 25
Symes 82 pen	Widdowson 38 og
Akpa Akpro 90	Butler 90
HT 0-2	Att 2,516
Sheff Wed.....2	Preston.....0
Madine 49,64	
HT 0-0	Att 18,069
Stevenage.....1	Wycombe.....1
Bostwick 85	Basey 90 pen
HT 0-0	Att 3,593

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Charlton	40	12	6	2	40	17	13	4	3	32	14	85
Sheff Utd	40	14	3	3	47	23	10	4	6	31	19	79
Sheff Wed	40	14	4	2	41	18	9	4	7	28	27	77
Huddersfield	39	12	6	2	32	17	6	11	2	24	23	71
M K Dons	40	10	6	4	41	21	8	7	5	33	23	67
Peterborough	39	11	6	3	37	28	6	7	6	21	30	64
Notts Cnty	40	11	5	4	33	23	6	4	10	26	31	60
Stevenage	39	7	9	3	29	21	7	8	5	25	16	59
Brentford	39	8	5	6	30	22	7	6	7	23	24	56
Colchester	40	7	9	4	32	29	5	8	7	20	24	53
Hartlepool	40	5	5	10	18	19	8	6	6	25	28	49
CHERRIES	40	7	4	9	19	22	6	7	7	23	25	50
Tranmere	40	8	9	3	22	14	4	3	13	19	30	48
Oldham	39	8	4	8	23	23	5	5	9	22	33	48
Yeovil	40	8	3	9	28	32	4	8	8	22	32	47
Preston	40	6	7	7	26	32	6	4	10	22	30	47
Scunthorpe	40	4	9	7	26	29	5	10	5	26	24	46
Leyton O	39	5	5	9	18	25	7	5	8	23	33	46
Bury	40	6	7	7	26	31	6	3	11	25	39	46
Walsall	40	6	8	6	23	23	2	11	7	21	25	43
Wycombe	40	7	4	9	31	31	4	4	12	27	42	41
Rochdale	40	5	8	7	24	30	2	6	12	14	35	35
Exeter	40	6	7	7	22	25	2	4	14	12	38	35
Chesterfield	40	5	6	9	18	29	2	6	12	24	41	33

npower League Two

Acc Stanley.....2	AFC Wimbledon.....1
Joyce 4, Hatfield 80	Moore 30
HT 1-1	Att 1,627
Burton Albion.....0	Crawley.....0
HT 0-0	Att 2,572
Crewe.....1	Northampton.....1
Murphy 17	Akinfenwa 59
HT 1-0	Att 4,893
Gillingham.....2	Macclesfield.....0
Fish 51, Whelpdale 85	
HT 0-0	Att 4,562
Oxford Utd.....1	Morecambe.....0
Rendell 5	Curran 3, Drummond 74
HT 1-1	Att 2,023
Plymouth.....1	Bradford.....0
Tsoumou 4	
HT 0-0	Att 6,933
Port Vale.....0	Dagenham.....0
	Spillane 65
HT 0-0	Att 4,127
Rotherham.....1	Hereford.....0
Grabban 43	
HT 1-0	Att 3,237
Shrewsbury.....1	Aldershot.....0
Morgan 78	Payne 51 pen
HT 0-0	Att 5,588
Swindon.....0	Bristol R.....0
HT 0-0	Att 9,645

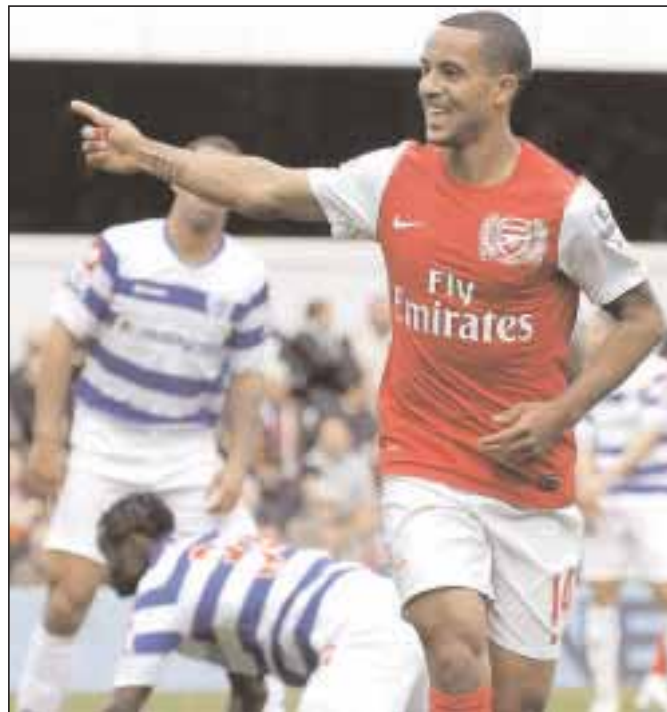
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Swindon	38	16	3	1	42	8	8	2	8	21	19	77
Torquay	40	11	6	3	34	22	11	3	6	23	20	75
Crawley	39	13	3	3	42	17	7	9	4	24	27	72
Shrewsbury	39	14	5	0	31	11	7	4	9	24	72	72
Southern	40	9	6	5	29	18	12	1	7	39	28	65
Oxford Utd	40	10	7	3	34	28	10	7	3	21	18	65
Cheltenham	40	10	5	5	23	14	9	3	8	32	31	65
Crewe	40	9	5	6	32	26	9	3	8	25	27	62
Gillingham	40	11	4	5	38	24	7	3	10	32	32	61
Aldershot	39	10	3	6	20	13	7	3	10	22	30	57
Rotherham	40	10	3	7	26	19	5	8	7	31	35	56
Morecambe	40	6	4	10	29	26	8	8	4	28	20	54
Acc Stanley	40	10	3	7	31	30	11	6	18	23	53	53
Bristol R	40	8	5	7	23	25	5	6	9	23	33	50
AFC W'don	40	7	4	9	33	37	6	4	10	22	31	47
Burton Albion	40	7	6	9	20	24	5	4	11	26	41	47
Port Vale	39	9	3	8	33	26	7	5	7	28	27	46
Northampton	39	5	10	26	38	6	4	9	24	31	47	46
Dagenham	40	8	1	11	25	33	4	4	12	16	34	41
Bradford	40	6	8	6	31	27	3	5	12	16	27	40
Plymouth	40	5	8	7	20	23	4	5	11	21	34	40
Barnet	39	5	5	9	23	34	5	4	11	21	34	39
Macclesfield	40	5	10	5	22	19	3	2	15	14	34	36
Hereford	40	4	3	13	19	38	4	8	8	22	26	35

Clydesdale Bank Premier

Dundee Utd.....3	Dunfermline.....0
Daly 49,83, Robertson 80	
HT 0-0	Att 6,654
Hearts.....3	Aberdeen.....0
McGowan 27, Skacek 53,89	
HT 1-0	Att 13,292
Motherwell.....1	Rangers.....0
Ojamaa 6	Whittaker 9, McCulloch 89
HT 1-1	Att 9,063
St Mirren.....4	Kilmarnock.....2
Thompson 24,83	Van Tornhout 13
HT 0-0	Shields 69
Hasselbaink 66	
HT 1-1	Att 4,365

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Celtic	31	13	1	1	30	6	11	2	3	34	14	75
Rangers	32	10	4	2	30	13	12	0	4	32	11	60
Motherwell	32	8	3	5	22	18	8	3	5	20	19	54
Dundee Utd	32	7	5	5	24	14	6	5	4	30	25	49
St Johnstn	31	6	1	8	20	24	8	6	2	22	10	49
Hearts	32	10	0	6	28	15	3	6	7	11	16	45
Kilmarnock	32	6	4	4	23	23	2	7	12	25	37	42
St Mirren	32	5	6	18	20	2	9	5	13	23	35	42
Aberdeen	32	5	7	4	18	13	2	5	9	11	24	33
Inverness CT	31	4	4	7	15	22	4	3	9	19	31	33
Hibernian	31	1	6	9	12	28	4	2	3	18	31	23
Dunfermline	32	0	7	9	17	40	4	1	11	14	30	20

*Rangers deducted 10 points for going into administration



GET IN: Ex-Saint Theo Walcott celebrates his goal for Arsenal in his side's defeat at QPR.

Scottish Division One

Partick	2	Livingston	3
Carney 7		Bouldin	20 47
Sinclair 54		Russell 50	
HT 1-1		Att 1,871	
Queen Sth	2	Ayr Utd	1
Johnston 14		Moffat 78	
Parkin 24			
HT 2-0		Att 2,079	
Ross Cnty	1	Raith	0
Lawson 85		Clarke 90 pen	
HT 0-0		Att 3,379	

	HOME						AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Ross Cnty	30	9	7	0	32	13	8	5	1	20	12	63	
Dundee	30	5	4	5	20	15	8	5	3	26	12	48	
Falkirk	30	7	6	2	21	16	4	5	6	22	23	44	
Hamilton	30	6	2	7	24	23	6	4	5	20	16	42	
Livingston	30	5	5	5	25	25	6	5	6	23	24	6	
Partick	30	4	7	5	25	16	4	7	5	19	19	38	
Morton	30	4	3	7	19	23	5	6	5	13	22	36	
Ayr Utd	30	4	7	4	17	17	3	6	4	17	32	32	
Raith	30	5	4	5	19	16	2	6	7	15	24	31	
Queen Sth	30	6	4	5	18	22	1	4	10	13	27	29	

Scottish Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Albion R	30	9	5	4	20	15	8	5	3	26	12	63
Dundee	30	7	6	2	21	16	4	5	6	22	23	44
Falkirk	30	7	6	2	24	23	6	4	5	20	16	42
Livingston	30	5	5	5	25	25	6	3	6	23	24	41
Partick	30	4	4	5	25	14	3	4	7	15	19	38
Morton	30	4	3	7	19	23	5	6	5	13	23	36
Ayr Utd	30	4	7	4	17	17	3	4	8	17	36	32
Raith	30	4	5	6	19	16	2	6	7	15	24	31
Queen Sth	30	6	4	5	18	22	1	4	10	13	27	29

Scottish Division Three

Cowdenbth	31	12	3	0	33	7	6	4	27	17	63
Arbroath	31	10	5	1	44	20	5	6	4	25	24
Dumfries	31	8	2	5	29	17	4	4	6	28	29
Stenhousem	31	8	2	5	29	17	4	4	8	18	26
Airdrie Utd	31	7	4	5	37	29	4	5	6	21	28
East Fife	31	6	4	5	24	24	6	2	8	24	25
Brechin	31	5	5	6	21	26	5	4	5	22	40
Forfar	31	5	5	5	26	30	3	5	8	19	35
Albion R	31	6	4	5	22	18	3	1	12	16	39
Stirling A	31	4	5	7	21	25	3	2	10	20	38
Scottish Division Three											
Berwick	3 Clyde										0
Barnhill											